

Hafa Adai!

Reyes tops shoreline fishing tourney. **PAGE 2**

Construction manager was also allegedly trafficking 'ice.' **PAGE 3**

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Saipan Tribune

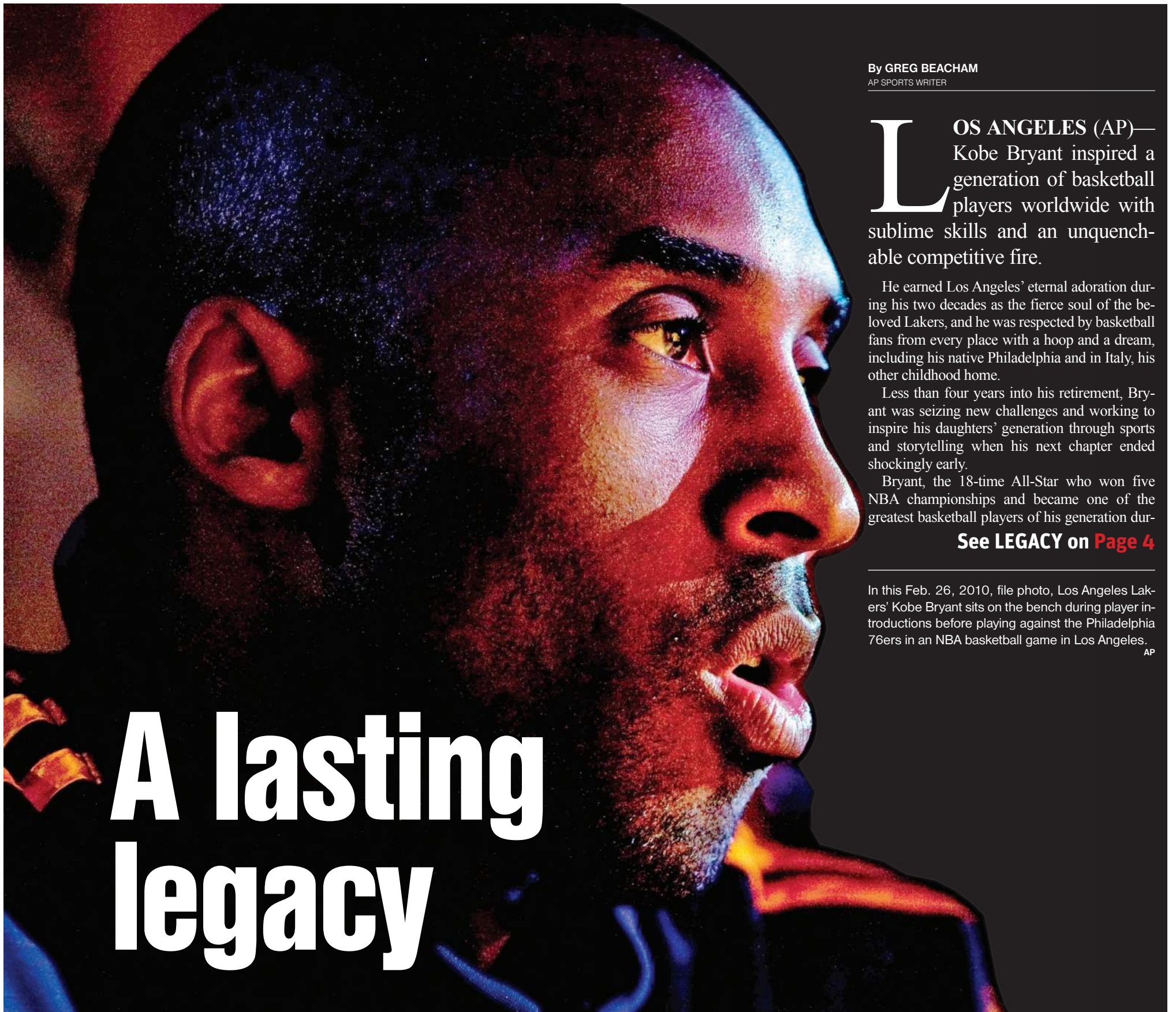
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By GREG BEACHAM
AP SPORTS WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Kobe Bryant inspired a generation of basketball players worldwide with sublime skills and an unquenchable competitive fire.

He earned Los Angeles' eternal adoration during his two decades as the fierce soul of the beloved Lakers, and he was respected by basketball fans from every place with a hoop and a dream, including his native Philadelphia and in Italy, his other childhood home.

Less than four years into his retirement, Bryant was seizing new challenges and working to inspire his daughters' generation through sports and storytelling when his next chapter ended shockingly early.

Bryant, the 18-time All-Star who won five NBA championships and became one of the greatest basketball players of his generation dur-

See LEGACY on Page 4

In this Feb. 26, 2010, file photo, Los Angeles Lakers' Kobe Bryant sits on the bench during player introductions before playing against the Philadelphia 76ers in an NBA basketball game in Los Angeles. AP

A lasting legacy

INSIDE



LOCAL

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce gala last Saturday also presented four other awards.

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ASIA

China expanded efforts to contain a viral disease by extending the Lunar New Year holiday.

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LIFE & STYLE

Siblings Billie Eilish and Finneas make a big splash at the Grammy Awards with their album.

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Local

Reyes tops shoreline fishing tourney

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

Fledgling fisherman Derek

Reyes Jr. took top honors at the Shoreline Casting Tournament that was held last Jan. 25 along the beachside of the Mi-

nachom Atdao in Susupe.

The other winners in the tournament were Pio Nogis, who came in second place;

Bryant Dy, who took third place honors; PJ Robert, who came in fourth; and Gabby Mario, who placed fifth.



Members of the Saipan Fisherman Association's Youth Fishing Club pose with advisers, SFA members, and the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality last Jan. 25 at the Minachom Atdao pavilion in Susupe.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Organized by the Saipan Fisherman Association, the Shoreline Casting Tournament saw the young members of the Youth Fishing Club try their hand at fishing from the shore as early as 5:30am, using the rod and reels that were recently donated by Fishing Tackle and Sporting Goods.

Prizes were awarded to the students who placed top five. The tournament was only open to students who are under into the SFA's "Tasi to the Table" program.

"I didn't think there would be many students coming out because of the weather but they came out and were in full force," said SFA president Gene Weaver. "Just seeing all these bright yellow shirts along the shoreline, it was a success and a very great turnout."

According to SFA spokesman Wayne Pangelinan, this was a way for the students to put their skills to the test.

"We've given them three and a half months of classroom learning. Now it's time to put the learning into practical use," said Pangelinan.

"In addition to that, we have taught them the values of the catch and release. If the fish sizes are pretty small, we teach them how to release it so it can repopulate the ocean."

The students are enrolled in the "Tasi to the Table" program for eight months and had three and a half months to learn the skills in the classroom and then, the next five months for students to put their skills to the test.

"This [fishing] is part of our culture, we only hope that the young generation will take over and carry the spirit, ingenuity, and push forward for many more movements, like what we're doing for them today," said Pangelinan.

"I hope that the students who have never touched a rod and reel before felt a special connection with the water," said Weaver.

Five representatives of the Bureau of Environment and Coastal Quality, Micronesian Islands Nature Association, Department of Public Safety's Boating Safety, and more were also present at the tournament.

Coronavirus scare is boosting inquiries about immunization

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The novel coronavirus that arose in Wuhan, China, has not been detected yet in the CNMI but anxieties about the continued spread of the virus, called 2019-nCoV, is resulting in the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s immunization program starting to see an influx of individuals seeking to be vaccinated.

In a short interview with CHCC's immunization program manager Jeremy Sasamoto, he said that residents and even tourists have been going to the Commonwealth Health Center to inquire about possible vaccines to combat this new virus.

Unfortunately, Sasamoto said, there still is no preventative vaccine or cure since the virus is still new and has yet to be studied thoroughly.

"This whole week we've been having folks heading over here, asking us for these pneumonia vaccines because of this [2019-nCoV]. I mean we can help them with some stuff but there isn't any shot specific for this [2019-nCoV] because it's so new but they assume that we may have something," he said.

Sasamoto said that the National Institute of Health is working on a vaccine for the virus but it will take some time, "We don't know if that will actually happen; it is still

early," he said.

The 2019-nCoV virus has been spreading rapidly and has already killed about 80 individuals in Wuhan, China.

Sasamoto said that CHCC has vaccines for similar viruses and the flu. Also, the only thing the immunization program can offer right now is advice on how to steer clear from getting the novel coronavirus and other similar viruses.

"It won't help for this specific virus but, really, this is like the flu. You just have to wash your hands all the time. Keep your hands away from your eyes, nose, and mouth unless it's washed. If anyone looks sick, just stay away from them. This new virus is not really airborne, but still it's scary," he said.

When asked if CHCC has the authority to request for a temporary ban on tourists who are from affected areas, Sasamoto said it would have to be an inter-agency decision.

"We have our own authority but, as far as a ban [is concerned], it would have to be an inter-agency thing. We do have the authority to quarantine individuals, things like that, but a travel ban, I don't think so," he said.

Currently, Sasamoto said he isn't too worried about the novel coronavirus reaching the CNMI. He added that he is more worried about measles since measles spreads a lot easier.







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Construction manager was also allegedly trafficking 'ice'

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety Drug Enforcement Task Force re-arrested Friday on Saipan a manager of a construction company who was also allegedly trafficking methamphetamine or "ice."

DETF officers re-arrested Shun Qiu, 32, a Chinese national, after the Office of the Attorney General moved to revoke the court's previous order to release him from custody because he has not cooperated with law enforcement in ongoing narcotics investigations.

At a hearing yesterday afternoon, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho retained the \$100,000 cash bail that the court previously imposed on Qiu, who is also known as Brother.

Preliminary hearing in the drug case will be on Tuesday, Feb. 4, at 1:30pm.

Camacho also quashed a bench warrant issued against Qiu for allegedly not appearing at a hearing in a traffic case charging him with driving while under the influence of alcohol and other charges.

The judge reset the arraignment in the traffic case to Feb. 20 at 9am.

Camacho found the defendant eligible for a court-appointed counsel.

Qiu, through an interpreter, said he is the manager of WAL Construction, which worked with a casino.

Chief public defender Douglas Hartig informed the court that, according to the prosecution, the Office of the Public Defender has a conflict of interest in representing Qiu.

Camacho said the court will appoint a private counsel for Qiu, but that the defendant may use the telephone at the Department of Corrections to contact a lawyer if he wants to hire one on his own.

In the CNMI government's motion to revoke Qiu's temporary release from custody, assistant attorney general Chester Hinds said a DETF officer arrested Qiu last Dec. 17 for trafficking of a controlled substance and illegal possession of a controlled substance.

Upon his arrest, Qiu volunteered to be a cooperating defendant that will assist law enforcement with their drug investigations, in exchange for his release without cash bail, subject to terms and conditions, Hinds said.

The court granted the government's motion to seal the case to protect the confidentiality and integrity of ongoing drug or narcotic investigations.

The court also granted the government's motion to release Qiu.

Hinds said that Qiu, however, has not cooperated with law enforcement in ongoing investigations and has not provided substantial assistance and accurate information



FERDIE DE LA TORRE
A Corrections officer escorts Shuo Qiu after a bail hearing yesterday afternoon before Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho.

tion to law enforcers.

According to DETF officer Jackson K. Davis in his declaration in support of the re-issuance of the arrest warrant, a cooperating defendant managed to buy \$450 worth of "ice" from Qiu during a "buy-walk" operation in a parking lot of a store in Gualo

Rai last Nov. 13.

Qiu allegedly took the methamphetamine from a source in western Garapan before handing it to the cooperating defendant.

Davis said their cooperating defendant was able to purchase \$420 worth of "ice" from Qiu in a second "buy-walk" operation outside Qiu's house in Koblerville last Nov. 19.

DETF then served an arrest warrant to Qiu at his house last Dec. 17 for trafficking and possession of a controlled substance.



Slots still open for art workshop

By **JUSTINE NAUTA**
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture has 25 to 30 more seats available for public and private school teachers who wish to learn how to use basic drawing as a means to teach.

The workshop, called "Kids Helping Kids," is specifically intended for teachers who teach from Kindergarten to Grade 12 grade. The workshop that will be on Jan. 30, from 9am to 3pm, at Kanoa Resort.

"This is a great opportunity for current teachers to bring something new into the classroom or to enhance your teaching skills," said Eulalia V. Arriola, spokesperson of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs. "This will also benefit teachers who are teaching a bilingual class since the main goal is to create books that can be translated into local languages for use in a classroom."

According to Arriola, there was a concern that Public School System teachers would not be interested in the work-

shop since it was unclear if PSS would approve of teachers getting credit for the workshop, but Arriola confirmed that, as of yesterday, Jan. 27, PSS has approved the certification for credit towards professional development for CNMI PSS teachers.

This workshop will be led by Dr. Lori Phillips, who will be demonstrating strategies for teachers to teach students how to illustrate and write books, in hopes that those books will be translated into local languages that could be used in the classroom.

The main objectives is for teachers to offer students lessons in beginning drawing, to learn the basics of watercolor painting to illustrate readers, and will review different types of simple early readers. Teachers don't need experience for this workshop.

Teachers should register on or before Tuesday, Jan. 28, to reserve their seats. Registration is free and is based on a first come, first serve basis.

For more information, call (670) 322-9982 or (670)788-2478.



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Marpi, CK reef are breeding grounds of humpback whales

By IVA MAURIN
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REPORTER

A study from 2015 to 2018 of humpback whales in the CNMI have tracked 43 humpback whales, plus 14 more mother-calf pairs, in the shallow waters of Saipan, and in the Marpi and Chalan Kanoa reef.

That means that the Mariana archipelago is an important area for humpback whales, according to whale researcher Marie Hill of the Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

"What our research is showing is that humpback whales are breeding

here in the Mariana archipelago," Hill said.

In the western North Pacific, humpback whales are considered endangered under the U.S. Endangered Species Act.

Based on the study's findings, humpback whales are on the islands between December and April to mate and give birth. On top of this, the whales are also play an important role in maintaining the area's ecological balance.

"They are connected to feeding areas up in the North Pacific off of

the Commander Islands of Russia. Humpback whales have an important ecological role in that they move food, energy from high latitude areas to low latitude areas," Hill said.

Hill explained that the whales, after feeding in the North Pacific, bring energy to the Marianas, not only by excreting, but also in cases when they die. "Whale fall can actually contribute a lot to the ecology of a particular area," Hill added.

Given the Marianas' role in providing for a breeding area for these endangered species, Hill said the

community can help by knowing about and understanding that the whales are here.

"It's important that people know. That knowledge in itself is really important...getting the word out that there are whales and dolphins here and that this is an important place for them," she added.

As for the islands' youth, Hill said it is important to let them know about the humpback whales' presence on the islands so that the youth can work toward conserving not only individual species, but the environment where these animals live.

"The youth are the most important, they're the future. They're the ones

that can really make a difference. Starting now. There are many youth that educate their parents too, so it's important, absolutely, to educate the young people," Hill said.

With humpback whales present in the Marianas, the PIFSC research concludes that there is a need to survey the Mariana archipelago more broadly to determine the "spatial extent" of the breeding ground, as well as the number of whales using the "full" area.

The Mariana Archipelago Humpback Whales research paper will be coming out soon. For those interested to receive a copy, email Hill at marie.hill@noaa.gov.

LEGACY

From Page 1

ing a 20-year career all with the Lakers, died in a helicopter crash Sunday. He was 41.

The crash occurred in the foggy hills above Calabasas, California, about 30 miles northwest of downtown Los Angeles. Bryant was killed. Bryant's 13-year-old daughter Gianna also died. Authorities said nine people were on the helicopter, and all were presumed dead. No names were released.

Bryant lived south of Los Angeles in coastal Orange County, and he often used helicopters to save time and avoid Southern California's notorious traffic. He traveled to practices and games by helicopter before his playing career ended in 2016. He continued to use them after retirement as he attended to his new ventures, which included a burgeoning entertainment company that recently produced an Academy Award-winning animated short film.

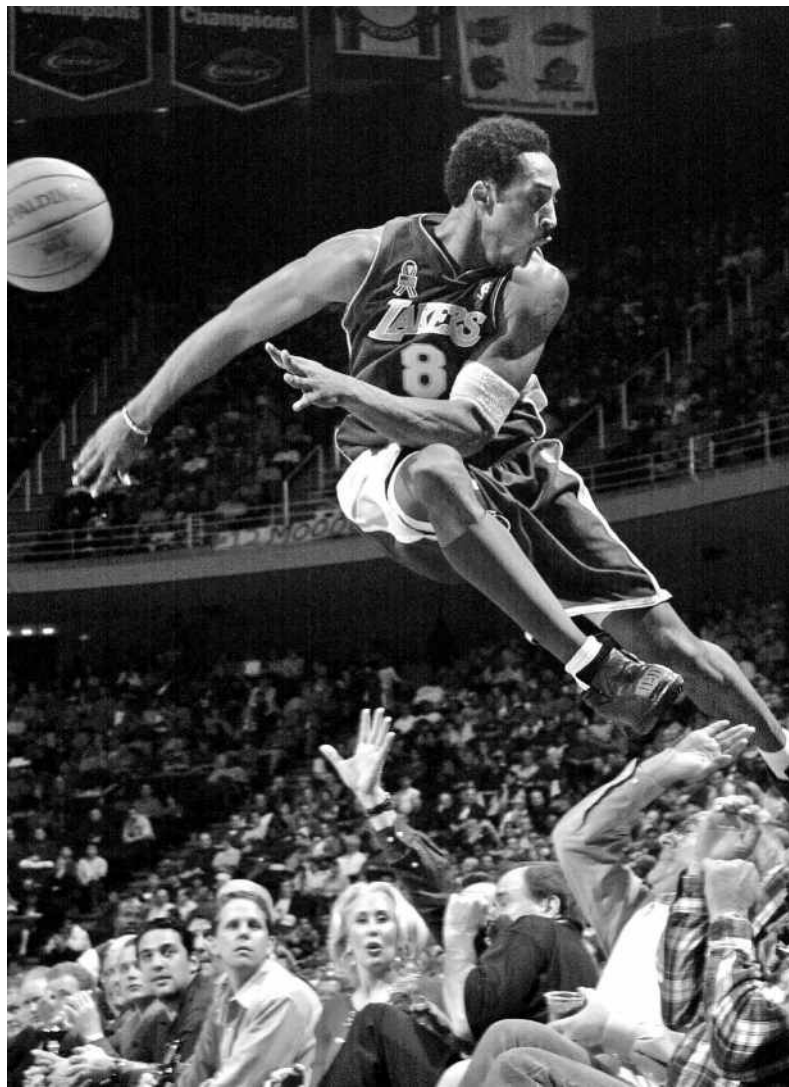
The basketball world and Los Angeles reacted with an outpouring of pain and disbelief. Bryant is all but certain to be elected to the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame this year, when he is eligible for the first time.

"For 20 seasons, Kobe showed us what is possible when remarkable talent blends with an absolute devotion to winning," NBA Commissioner Adam Silver said. "He was one of the most extraordinary players in the history of our game with accomplishments that are legendary ... but he will be remembered most for inspiring people around the world to pick up a basketball and compete to the very best of their ability."

The crash occurred about 20 miles from Mamba Sports Academy, Bryant's basketball training complex in Newbury Park, California. A youth basketball tournament—the Mamba Cup—was scheduled for a second day of competition Sunday at the facility, and Bryant had attended the opening day Saturday with Gianna.

Bryant and his wife, Vanessa, had four daughters. He had been a vocal booster of women's sports since his retirement, coaching and mentoring basketball players around the world while also backing women's soccer and other endeavors.

Bryant retired as the third-leading



In this Dec. 20, 2001, file photo Los Angeles Lakers' Kobe Bryant jumps over a row of fans after saving the ball from going out of bounds in the second half of the Lakers 107-101 win over the Houston Rockets in Houston. AP

scorer in NBA history with 33,643 points, all scored in Lakers purple and gold. The self-nicknamed Black Mamba was a prolific, gifted shooter with a sublime all-around game and a relentless, hard-edged work ethic that thrilled his fans and almost everyone else, even those who reviled him.

Taking cues from Michael Jordan, one of his idols, Bryant played with a swagger that compelled him to talk trash, to guard the toughest opponents, to play through pain and to demand the ball at the biggest moments of games.

He didn't always hit them, but Bryant never stopped trying.

"He had zero flaws offensively," LeBron James said Saturday night. "Zero. You backed off of him, he could shoot the 3. You body him up a little bit, he could go around you. He could shoot from mid-range. He could post. He could make free throws. ... He was just immortal offensively because of his skill set and his work ethic."

Bryant held the No. 3 spot in the league scoring ranks until the day before his death, when James passed him during the Lakers' game in Philadelphia.

On Saturday night, James said he was "happy just to be in any conversation with Kobe Bean Bryant, one of the all-time greatest basketball players to ever play. One of the all-time greatest Lakers."

Bryant always reacted graciously to the achievements of James, his former on-court rival who joined the Lakers in 2018.

"Continuing to move the game forward @KingJames," Bryant wrote in his last tweet. "Much respect my brother."

Tim Duncan, the San Antonio Spurs great who also retired in 2016, is also expected to be part of the Hall of Fame class that will be announced at the NBA's All-Star weekend next month. Duncan, now a Spurs assistant, was visibly emotional on the

bench during their game against Toronto on Sunday.

Bryant had been spending more time with his daughters since leaving the league. The Bryants' first daughter, Natalia, turned 17 a week ago. Bianka Bella Bryant is 3 years old, and Capri Kobe Bryant was born last June.

Gianna, better known as Gigi, had a promising youth career and a competitive pugnaciousness that reminded everybody of her dad. Bryant sat with her courtside at a Brooklyn Nets game late last year, clearly passing along his wisdom to his daughter.

Bryant told Jimmy Kimmel in 2018 that Gianna wanted to play in the WNBA and recalled how fans would often approach him saying "you gotta have a boy, you gotta someone to carry on the tradition, the legacy."

Gianna took exception: "She's like, 'Oy, I got this,'" Bryant recalled.

News of Bryant's death inspired an outpouring of grief around the sports world and beyond, but it was felt particularly painfully in Los Angeles, where Bryant was unquestionably the sprawling city's most popular athlete and one of its most beloved people. Buildings from downtown to Los Angeles International Airport were illuminated in Lakers purple and gold.

The Lakers' next game is Tuesday night against the crosstown rival Clippers, but hundreds of fans—many in Bryant jerseys and Lakers gear—spontaneously gathered at Staples Center and in the surrounding LA Live entertainment complex on Sunday, weeping and staring at video boards with Bryant's image before the Grammy awards ceremony.

"I thought he was going to live forever," Lakers great Magic Johnson told KCBS-TV. "I thought he was invincible. ... There was nobody who took more pride in putting on that Laker uniform than Kobe. Nobody. He was just special. We will miss him and we'll remember him for his greatness, but let's not forget how he impacted the world, too."

Bryant retired as the Lakers' franchise leader in points, games played, 3-pointers and steals—no small feats on a franchise that has employed many of the greatest players in basketball history.

The NBA kept its games on as scheduled when the news broke. The Spurs and Raptors both took voluntary 24-second shot clock violations

at the start of their game in honor of Bryant, who wore No. 24 for the second half of his career.

Several other teams followed up by deliberately taking delays of 24 and 8 seconds, honoring both of his jersey numbers. Many players were seen crying before their games, and James looked emotional on the tarmac when he got off the Lakers' team plane from Philadelphia.

Bryant's future appeared to be limitless in retirement, whether in sports or entertainment. He opened a production company shortly after leaving the Lakers, saying he was just as passionate about storytelling as he had been about his sport. He won an Oscar in 2018 for his contributions to "Dear Basketball," an animated short about his relationship to the game. He also produced content for ESPN.

In 2003, Bryant was charged with attacking a 19-year-old employee at a Colorado resort. He had said the two had consensual sex, and the charge was eventually dropped when the women declined to testify in a trial. The woman later filed a civil suit against Bryant that was settled out of court.

Bryant went on to become one of the NBA's most popular players and the face of the Lakers. Winning a record four NBA All-Star Game MVP awards, he was the overall league MVP in 2008 and a two-time NBA scoring champion, but he also earned 12 selections to the NBA's All-Defensive teams.

He teamed with Shaquille O'Neal in a combustible partnership to lead the Lakers to NBA titles in 2000, 2001 and 2002. He later teamed with Pau Gasol to win two more titles in 2009 and 2010.

A two-time Olympic gold medalist with the dominant U.S. team, Bryant retired in 2016 after scoring 60 points in his final NBA game. In December 2017, the Lakers hung banners retiring his No. 8 and No. 24 jerseys in the Staples Center rafters in an unprecedented double honor.

Bryant looms large over the current generation of NBA players, most of whom grew up either idolizing Bryant or absorbing his work ethic and competitive spirit in the same way Bryant's generation learned from Jordan. Bryant exemplified and passed on that mentality to James, Stephen Curry and the NBA's current wave of high-scoring superstars.

Senate gaming committee urged to act fast on casino bill

By IVA MAURIN
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Casino Commission appealed to members of the Senate Committee on Gaming yesterday to act soon on House Bill 21-11, which would expand the authority of the regulatory body over casino operations in the CNMI.

"This bill is long overdue and I hope that this body will act as soon as possible," said CCC chair Juan M. Sablan.

The bill, re-introduced by House vice speaker Lorenzo

Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan), is meant to enable the regulatory agency to more effectively fulfill its mandate of regulating the casino industry.

"The Commonwealth would be better protected if the entity that is expected to regulate it has the authority to do so," CCC executive director Edwin Deleon Guerrero said, adding that the commission also sees the need to protect and manage the revenue that is coming into the Commonwealth.

"There's some other issues there that involves protecting

the Commonwealth Treasury, [such as] by restricting any tax write-off. While we enhance our enforcement responsibility and capability, we are also trying to close any loopholes that might drain the fiscal resources of the Commonwealth," Deleon Guerrero added.

The CCC executive director also revealed that a lot of revenue coming in is from the VIP gaming credits so they would want to protect and make sure, as included in the H.B. 21-11, that those credits cannot be written off.

The bill would give the

CCC the enforcement authority over gaming-related violations, complementary to the enforcement authority of the Department of Public Safety.

"All of our enforcement investigations are specifically trained on gaming-related activities. That's something that we think CCC is in the best position, to be the responsible entity to implement. We will still work with DPS, and still work with the federal [agencies] on others issues," Deleon Guerrero said.

With concerns still pending, particularly in relation to

the Lottery Commission, and with the CCC waiting for years now for the bill to be enacted, Sablan asks that the Senate acts fast to move the bill forward, suggesting that amendments can always be done in the future.

"For three and a half years we have been waiting," Sablan said. "I really like to move forward. There's always another time, no bill is perfect. You can always go back. These [implied amendments] is just to clear the confusion between ourselves, the Lottery Commission, and whatsoever."

"We would like to move forward and continue with what we have to do that is mandated of us to do by the statute, but give us the authority and better clarify to clear the confusions that we are faced with. So again, we encourage the committee and members of the Senate to please act on this legislation," Sablan added.

The discussion on H.B. 21-11 will continue at the next Senate Cannabis and Gaming Committee meeting that is tentatively set on Feb 13, Thursday, at the Senate chamber on Capital Hill.

CNMI positioning self as trust fund hub

By IVA MAURIN
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REPORTER

Wealthy parents looking to build a trust fund for their children could possibly do so in the Marianas in the near possible future.

In response to the call by the administration and House Speaker Blas Jonathan Attao (R-Saipan) for members to come up with revenue-generating bills, Rep. Ivan Blanco (R-Saipan) is working on a bill that could make the CNMI a trust fund hub.

"I'm pleased that I have worked with several people in the community who have expertise in trust laws," Blanco said. "I am working on a bill where we can establish the CNMI as a hub for trust estates."

Blanco, who chairs the House Ways & Means Committee, said that his bill is using the South Dakota model, adding that while it is a big state, it is like the CNMI. The state's trust law attracts the extremely rich for benefits that include asset protection and privacy, among others.

"We can provide the CNMI as an opportunity for them to park their trust here in the CNMI, and from there, we can impose a very minimal tax and that would be our selling point, that there will not be an exorbitant, high tax to tax their trust fund," he added.

"Say, you are well-endowed, you're successful, you have a child and you want to provide for your child but you don't want your trust funds to be eaten away by high taxes in other states so you look around..." he said. "... you shop around and you say, 'The CNMI has lower taxes, whereby when my child uses the funds, it's not taxed too high,' your child gets more of the benefits from it. From the CNMI standpoint, we get to tax."

Blanco said that he hopes that his bill will be considered by other House members, who are also working on revenue-

generating bills on their own. Aside from "taxing" the trust funds, Blanco also said that the bill could generate more revenues, including employment, for the CNMI in terms of businesses that would be put up to facilitate the trust estates.

"When they build a business here, they have to pay the business license tax, then they have to hire a trustee. This trustee needs staff to ensure that funds are well-protected, the benefits are paid on time. So that's employment. And when they do issue those payments to the beneficiaries, we can tax a little bit of that."

Blanco is hopeful that his bill would enable the CNMI to attract well-off individuals in the U.S. mainland.

"...If we can sell that this can be a hub with lower taxes, I hope that we can attract some other well-off individuals in the mainland, or perhaps we can open it up to the world," he said.

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Chamber gala also honors four other awardees

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

The annual gala of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce last Sat-

urday saw not only the selection of Pacific Island Club Saipan general manager Gloria Cavanagh as its Business Person of the Year but also the presenta-

tion of four other awards that honored other integral members of the community.

The awards—Saipan Young Professional of the Year,

Chamber Member of the Year, Non-Profit of the Year, and Small Business of the Year—were presented Saturday at the Chamber gala at the Hyatt Regency Saipan ballroom.

Thirty-one year old Nicole Babauta won the Saipan Young Professional of the Year award for her work as administrator of the CNMI Small Business Development Center, where she has been working since 2017.

Last year, she was given the 2018 America's Small Business Development Center State Star Award for her work contributing to SBDC's economic development projects and her commitment to CNMI small businesses.

Babauta holds a degree in Business Management from the University of Phoenix. "I am very honored and I share this award [with] the other nominees with whom I worked and collaborated over the years. I encourage the young professionals of today and the future to work hard, stay open to new learnings and let us continue to work together," she said.

Her father, Ben Babauta, a BPOY awardee in 2009, said, "I am really proud of her. It has been a journey of hard work and the goal to improve the business sector and the community. She did an awesome job," he said.

It was a tie between IT&E-CNMI and the CNMI Small Business Development Center for the Chamber Member of the Year award.

IT&E-CNMI general manager Rose Soledad said that they have always been a big supporter of the business and CNMI community. "We always do our best to deliver whatever service we offer and I think we have proven ourselves every time, especially during typhoons where communication is very crucial. IT&E was there and always will be," she said. "We will continue doing our best for 2020 as we extend our fiber network and work on going 5G."

Nicole Babauta, administrator of the CNMI Small Business Development Center, received the award and thanked Gov. Ralph Torres and CNMI Commerce Secretary Mark Rabauliman. "... Their continued support of CNMI SBDC is behind our success. ... We would like to thanks the CNMI community as well and I hope they continue to let us know how we can improve so that we can help more," she said. "We plan to work closely with our sister islands—Guam, Kosrae, Palau and Pohnpei—as we hope to launch the Micronesia Regional Trade Programs



Island Training Solutions owner Jim Arenovski receives the award for Small Business of the Year at the Business Person of the Year Gala of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce last Saturday at the Hyatt Regency Saipan ballroom in Garapan.

BEA CABRERA



Tan Siu Lin Foundation executive director Merlie Tolentino receives the award for Non-Profit of the Year at the Business Person of the Year Gala of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce last Saturday at the Hyatt Regency Saipan ballroom in Garapan.

BEA CABRERA



Saipan Chamber of Commerce executive director Maxine Laszlo hands Nicole Babauta the Saipan Young Professional of the Year award at the Business Person of the Year Gala of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce last Saturday at the Hyatt Regency Saipan ballroom in Garapan.

BEA CABRERA

that will allow interested individuals to train amongst the island. ... Please walk through our doors and we will help set you up."


The Non-Profit of the Year award went to the Tan Siu Lin Foundation for its many charitable acts, events, and projects that help uplift individuals and families in the CNMI. The foundation's executive director, Merlie Tolentino, who received the award, said, "... It is great to be recognized by business people. All of us are working hard—whether in business or charitable works—to help the CNMI."

"For this year, we are in the process of developing activities and events to encourage the CNMI community to live a healthier lifestyle. ... We are also currently organizing different events with possible partnerships with different government offices," she added.

Island Training Solutions won the Small Business of

the Year award. ITS conducts professional training and consultancy and a big supporter of workforce development in the CNMI through Latte Training Academy. LTA owner Jim Arenovski said that investing in the CNMI's workforce development is a passion. "I am fortunate enough to have lots of great customers and people know the quality of the work that we have done. ... By investing in individuals starting from high school all the way to college... we have touched the lives of many people," he said.

"We have a pool of great instructors like Kanai Quinn and Tyce Mister that help with development and training in destination enhancement and business operations. ... For this year, our goal is rededicate ourselves to quality and safety certifications. We also plan to get more certifications in Emotional Intelligence training and we are also broadening our focus on "Mastermind Thought Process" training," he added.



NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION (NMHC)
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.net

Amendment No. 1

**NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY
OF COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT FUNDS
FOR PROGRAM YEAR 2020**

THIS ADVERTISEMENT IS PAID FOR BY NMHC WITH CPD FUNDS.

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is announcing the availability of an estimated \$1,323,285.00 in Community Planning and Development (CPD) funds available from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. NMHC anticipates receiving an estimated amount of \$867,556.00 in Community Development Block Grants (CDBG); \$386,617.00 in Home Investment Partnerships (HOME); and, \$69,112.00 in Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds for Program Year (PY) 2020.

The CDBG funds, authorized under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, may be used for a wide range of community development activities to revitalize neighborhoods, provide affordable housing, expand economic opportunities, and improve community facilities and services. However, use of these funds must meet at least one of the national objectives which include: 1) to benefit low and moderate-income families; 2) to eliminate slum or blight conditions; or 3) to meet other urgent community development needs.

The CDBG program requires a grant recipient to certify that it will minimize displacement of persons as a result of activities assisted with CDBG funds. The CNMI government does not plan on undertaking any activity which will cause displacement of person. In the event of any unforeseen displacement resulting from any CDBG funded activity, the CNMI government will comply with the requirements of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, its implementing regulation and applicable local law.

HOME funds may be used to create affordable housing through financing assistance, site acquisition or improvement, and rehabilitating existing residential dwellings as well as providing funds for new construction or purchase of a single family residential dwelling. Use of HOME funds must benefit low-income families.

ESG funds may be used to rehabilitate or convert to buildings into homeless shelters and for shelter operating expenses, supportive services and homeless prevention and rapid re-housing activities. Use of ESG funds must benefit the homeless.

Applications for the use of CPD funds are available for pick up at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) located in Garapan, Saipan; San Jose Village, Tinian; and, Songsong Village, Rota, beginning November 14, 2019. You may also obtain the application online at www.nmhc.gov.net in the section titled "Public Notice/Announcement" subsection "Community Planning Development"

Applications must be submitted to the NMHC Offices in Garapan, Saipan (Saipan Residents); San Jose, Tinian (Tinian Residents); and, Songsong Village, Rota (Rota Residents) by **March 31, 2020, no later than 4:30 p.m.** Applications submitted after March 31, 2020, will not be accepted.

A briefing will be conducted for interested applicants and for those applicants who have picked up an application for the use of CPD funds. The briefing will address the program requirements and regulations concerning the usage of CPD funds.

The schedules for briefing are as follows:

**February 12, 2020, 6:00 p.m. for the island of Tinian—
February 10, 2020, 6:00 p.m. for the island of Rota
February 13, 2020, 6:00 p.m. for the island of Saipan
February 14, 2020, 6:00 p.m. for the island of Rota—
February 14, 2020, 6:00 p.m. for the island of Tinian**

We are encouraging all non-profit, for profit, and government service providers who are providing services to people with disabilities, homeless individuals, and emergency shelter administrators and operators to attend this briefing.

For residents living on the island of Saipan, the briefing will be held at the NMHC Office in Garapan; Residents living on the island of Tinian, the briefing will be held at the NMHC Office in San Jose Village; and Residents living on the island of Rota, the briefing will be held at the Rota Mayor's Office Conference Room in Tatachog.

Accommodations for disabled individuals or other non-English speaking individuals who wish to attend the briefing are available upon request by giving at least 24 hours notice prior to the meeting so that such needs can be arranged and provided. Additional inquiries, concerning the CPD program, may be directed to Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director or Ms. Tricia Tenorio, Planner at 234-6866 or 234-9447.

/s/ Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director

Tinian Field Office
Tel: (670)433-9213
Fax: (670)433-3690

"NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency"

Rota Field Office
Tel: (670)532-9410
Fax: (670)532-9441



YOUNG AUTHORS

The Lady Diann Torres Foundation's Young Authors Writing Program stocks school libraries with books. Photo shows first lady Diann Torres with Garapan Elementary School vice principal Derwin Johnson, Chamorro and Carolinian Language and Heritage Studies teacher Elsie Johnson, and students.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Public warned of rip currents

The public is being warned of a high risk of rip currents through Wednesday along east facing reefs. Surf as high as 11 feet will result in a high risk of rip currents through Wednesday.

Based on information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, an east swell will maintain dangerous rip currents on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

If caught in a rip current, remain calm. Stay afloat while waiting for help. To swim out of a rip current, swim parallel to shore and back toward the beach when possible. Do not attempt to swim directly against a rip current as you will tire quickly. The public is advised to avoid venturing near the reef line, especially along east facing reefs. Large waves may knock you down and injure you. Rip currents can sweep even the best swimmers away from shore into deeper water. Stay out of the water. (PR)

DMS sets PTSA meeting

The Dandan Middle School will have a Parents Teachers Students Association meeting today, Jan. 28, starting at 6pm in the school's cafeteria. The PTSA is hosting the Totot Bash on Friday, Jan. 31, 2020, from 5pm to 9pm. Currently, students, teachers, and parents are selling raffle tickets for the annual bash. The community is invited to a family fun night on Friday and enjoy the entertainment, games and food! (PR)

Bermudes and Matanane back on board

Chief band master Jessica Pangelinan and The Guam Territorial Band board of trustees announced yesterday the return of its creative director,

John Bermudes, and the promotion of Joanne Matanane to artistic director of the Tumon Bay Music Festival.

Both Bermudes and Matanane bring years of management and design to TBMF, which is in its 16th year of operation. Founded by former GTB chief band master Max Ronquillo Jr., the festival continues to serve as an avenue for musicians to collaborate with others via the platform of music education. (PR)

Veterans Affairs Resource Fair set

The U.S. Department of Vet-

erans Affairs is having a Veterans Resource Fair hosted by VA Pacific Islands Health Care System acting director Kevin Amick and Honolulu Veterans Benefits Regional Office director Sergio S. Chao.

This is to share information and resources, hear feedback from veterans and to answer questions on VA health care and benefits.

The Veterans Resource Fair on Saipan will take place on Feb. 4, 2020, from 5pm to 6:30pm at the Pedro P. Teno-rio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe near the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library.

The Listening Sessions on Tinian and Rota will be held on the following dates and time:

■ Tinian: Feb. 5, 2020, from 10am to 12:30 pm at the Tinian Library.

■ Rota: Feb. 6, 2020, from 10am to 12:30pm at the Mayor of Rota's conference hall.

All veterans, their families, survivors and any organization(s) or individual(s) who works with or on behalf of veterans are encouraged to attend.

For more information, contact Ruth Coleman at 322-0035. (PR)



UNITED STATES Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES



NOTICE OF COUNCIL MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 12, the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities hereby gives notice that it will hold its 2nd Quarter General Membership Meeting on February 7, 2020 from 11:00am to 3:00pm at the LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort, Caladium Hall.

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Review & Adoption of Agenda of February 7, 2020.
- IV. Review & Adoption of Meeting Minutes of December 30, 2019
- V. Reports
 - a. Chairperson
 - b. State Plan Committee Chairperson
 - c. Fiscal Committee Chairperson
 - d. Executive Director
- VI. Old Business
 - a. International Day of People with Disabilities Update
 - b. International Day of Acceptance – January 17-18, 2020 Update
- VII. New Business
 - a. 2020 Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month
 - b. Accessibility in the CNMI Initiative
- VIII. Action Items
 - a. Review and Approval of the Proposed FY 2019 Annual Report
 - b. Ratify the Approval of AT Lease to Own Program Fund Transfer
 - c. Review and Approval of the Proposed FY 2020 DD Basic and AT Budget
- IX. Miscellaneous
- X. Next Meeting – April 2020
- XI. Adjournment

Note: Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 13(a) 7, the Council may vote to meet in Executive Session. In accordance to the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting and require special accommodations are requested to call the Council 5 days in advance at 664-7000. The Public is welcome to submit written or 3 minutes oral comments regarding the agenda above.

/s/ Jan Barcinas
Chairperson

This ad was paid for by funds from the DD Basic Grant Part A (Administrative)

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY



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Website: www.cpa.gov.mp



NOTICE OF BOARD COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority hereby gives notice that there will be a Joint Airport and Financial Affairs Committee Meeting on Thursday, January 30, 2020, beginning 9:30 a.m. in the Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) Classroom located in the Airport Fire Station at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport on the island of Saipan.

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order, Roll Call, Adoption of Agenda, Adoption of Minutes (Airport and Finance - November 01, 2019)
- II. Public Comments
- III. Old Business:
 1. Airport Operators Committee Updates/Report
 2. Business Gross Revenue Tax (BGR)
 3. Airline Users Agreement
 4. Star Marianas Air
 5. Saipan International Airport Improvements (Ad hoc) Committee
 6. Saipan Airport CPA Accounting/CIQ Office Renovations – A&E Design Services
 7. Solar Updates
 8. CUC Water well near Tandem Skydive
 9. General Aviation Updates
 10. Electronic Signboard
- IV. New Business:
 1. Mobil
 2. Rota Concession Consultation Services
 3. Fiscal Year 2018 Audit
 4. Supplemental Budget Request – Delta Dock Repairs
 5. Supplemental Budget Request – Rota Airport Drainage Improvement
 6. Miscellaneous Fees
 7. Bond Issuance
 8. Procurement Rules and Regulations
 9. Helicopter Concerns
 10. CUC Power Plant 3
 11. Lease Renewal/Amendment:
 - a. American Red Cross
 - b. POI Aviation
 - c. Star Marianas Air – Fuel
 - d. Star Marianas Air – Hangar
 12. Boutique Air/TSA
 13. Financial Affairs Committee Report
 14. Airport Facilities Committee Report

- V. Executive Session (if needed)
- VI. Miscellaneous/Announcements
- VII. Adjournment

Persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the agenda items. A time limit may be imposed for oral testimony.

Barrie C. Toves
Airport Facilities Committee Chair

Ramon A. Tebuteb
Financial Affairs Committee Chair

SCC Business Person of the Year Gala

Photos by BEA CABRERA



From left, former lieutenant governor Diego Benavente, Labor Secretary Vicky Benavente, Vicki Izuka, and Dave Guerrero attend the Saipan Chamber of Commerce Business Person of the Year Gala last Saturday at the Hyatt Regency Saipan ballroom in Garapan.



From left, Marcia Calvo, Glenn Hunter, Velma Palacios, Ty Pauling, Maxine Laszlo and Santi "Big Boy" Sablan.



From left: Rep. Edwin Propst, Glen Hunter, Marie Aldan, Daisy Propst, and Cathy Matsumoto.



From left, Hanna Blanco, Eleanor Cabrera-Guerrero, Joe Guerrero, and Chef Inos Hocog of Naked Fish.



Gloria Cavanagh and her husband, Joseph Cavanagh, are surrounded by Cavanagh's friends and colleagues from Pacific Island Club Saipan where she is the general manager.



Seated are Roman "Bo" Palacios and Jose Quan. Standing, from left, are Cyji Tenorio, Jose Tenorio, Patty Palacios, Somia Quan, and Frannie Demapan.



From right, Norman Tenorio, Darlene Macaranas, Shirley Sablan, Lei Tenerio, and Grace Velena.



From left, Lou Camacho, Sandy Tse, Elias Buenaventura, Joanne Arroyo, John Arroyo, and Marcia Calvo.



The men and women of Docomo Pacific: Rica Concepcion, Brent Deleon Guerrero, Verna Sablan, Clinton De la Cruz, Conrad Sablan, and Paz Grant.



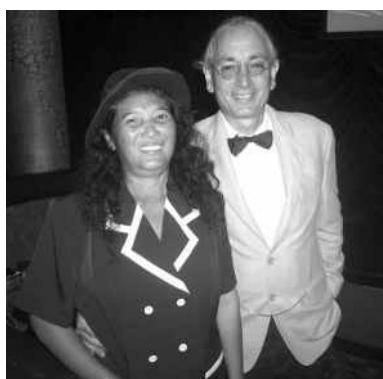
From left, Rep. Luis John DLG Castro, Keith Chambers II, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho, and Roemar Segafred.



From left, Kaelani Demapan, press secretary Kevin Bautista, Charity Hodson, Joe Hallahan, Roman "Bo" Palacios, and Ashley Kost.



From left, Saipan Young Professional of the Year winner Nicole Babauta, Linda Babauta, Ben Babauta and Maynard Reyes.



Ron Smith with his wife, Moon.



Matthew Deleon Guerrero and Hanaivy Babauta.



From left, Nelson Krum of Paradise Dental, Donna Krum of Friends First Marketing, Emma Perez, and Pete Perez of 500 Sails.



From left, Frank Sablan, Rita A. Sablan, Natalia Sablan, and Saipan Young Professional of the Year nominee and owner of Ina's Kitchen, Francisco "Sonnie" Sablan.



From left, Small Business of the Year winner Jim Arenovski of Island Training Solutions, Saipan Chamber of Commerce treasurer Michael Johnson of Deloitte & Touche with his wife Betty and Saipan Snaps owner Jill Arenovski.



From left, Alex Sablan of TanHoldings, Dave Sablan of Century Insurance, and Ivan Quichoco of TanHoldings.



Bishop Ryan Jimenez, second from right, and Merlie Tolentino, seated fourth from right, of the Tan Siu Lin Foundation, which was the winner of the Non-Profit of the Year Award, are joined by Melanie Villafior, Melanie Santos, Loida Ito, Carline Sablan, Elna Curate, Shirley Kim, Mel Naputi, and Megan Aglipay.



From left, IT & E general manager Rose Soledad, IT&E director of Network Velma Palacios, IT&E Customer Service manager and Government Relations Janice Tenorio and IT&E comptroller Leriza Delarun.



Eli D. Cabrera
Administrator

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality

Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
www.dcrm.gov.mp



Janice E. Castro
Director, DCRM

PUBLIC NOTICE

MARPO HEIGHTS PHASE II HOMESTEAD SUBDIVISION PERMIT APPLICATION NO. TMS-2020-X-006

The Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) will be holding a public hearing for the proposed Marpo Heights Phase II Homestead Subdivision project in Tinian.

The Department of Public Lands is proposing to develop the Marpo Heights Phase II Homestead Subdivision in a rural area identified as Lot No. 271-T-73, measuring about 51.7 ha or 128.5 acres of land. The proposed homestead subdivision is comprised of 456 residential lots, a park, and ponding basin.

The public hearing for this project is scheduled for **Monday, February 10, 2020, at 4:30PM, in San Jose, Tinian. The public hearing will be conducted at the Tinian Elementary School Cafeteria.**

Written comments can be submitted to the DCRM Office, Suite 305, Gualo Rai Center, Middle Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan, or mailed to the Division of Coastal Resources Management, P.O. Box 501304, or sent by fax at 664-8315. The project files are open for review and comments during regular business hours from 7:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M., Monday through Friday. All written and oral comments received by DCRM will be included as part of the permit application records and will be considered in any decisions concerning the proposed projects. Please contact the DCRM at 664-8300/1 if you have any questions or would like to learn more about the Marpo Heights Phase II Homestead Subdivision project.

/s/ Janice E. Castro
Director
Division of Coastal Resources Management



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
PUBLIC ASSISTANCE OFFICE

DR-4235 | DR-4396 | DR-4404

RFQ20-GOV/PA-043

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS Design and Project Management Services for the Public Assistance Office

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Public Assistance Office, (collectively, "Commonwealth"), are soliciting sealed proposals from Architectural and Engineering firms to provide Design and Project Management Services for awarded Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Public Assistance Program funded projects.

Procurement procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001, or latest revision thereof. Public Law 15-95 (Local Preference Act) as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

Selected firms will be retained as independent contractors under general provision of the Contracting Officer or his/her designee. Firms will act as agents of the expenditure authority on assigned Public Assistance projects to ensure that identified objectives are achieved within cost, time and legal requirements while maintaining effective stakeholder communications. Selected firms will be retained on a two-year contract with an option to renew for an additional 2 years at the discretion of the Commonwealth.

Compensation for services will be determined based on the requirements of the assigned projects including payments for approved staff and expenses. Selected firms would be precluded from providing any other services outside the scope of services associated with the assigned project(s).

Interested parties may pick up the applicable scope of work and submittal requirements from the CNMI Public Assistance Office located at the Juan A. Sablan Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, CNMI, or request via electronic mail to Patrick C. Guerrero (pguerrero@pa.gov.mp) beginning January 24, 2020.

A pre-proposal meeting will be held on January 31, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. at the Office of the Governor Conference Room, Juan A. Sablan Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan.

Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330 or the latest version of Standard Forms. Statement of Qualifications will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

1. Qualification of Firm and/or Personnel.....40%
2. Experience in Design and Project Management.....40%
3. Work Load.....20%

Discussions shall be conducted with the top three (3) ranked firms or with all the firms. After selections are made, negotiations will be conducted with firms to determine the final fair and reasonable price of the contract for the work to be performed. The selection process shall be guided by § 70-30.3-305 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations and any other section related to contracts for the requested services.

Qualifications statements must be sealed and marked "RFQ20-GOV/PA-043, Design and Project Management Services for the Public Assistance Office." For firms within the CNMI, one (1) original and four (4) copies of the qualifications statement must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP, no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on **February 7, 2020**. Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to Propose must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on February 7, 2020 and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to a.magofna@dof.gov.mp. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one (1) original and four (4) copies of the sealed qualifications statement must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than February 7, 2020 and must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on February 14, 2020. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies of the proposal may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

Questions regarding this RFQ20-GOV/PA-043 may be submitted in writing to Patrick C. Guerrero, Public Assistance Officer, at pguerrero@pa.gov.mp no later than February 3, 2020.

Gratuities. It shall be a breach of ethical standards for any person to offer, give or agree to give any employee or former employee, or for any employee or former employee to solicit, demand, accept or agree to accept from another person, a gratuity or an offer of employment in connection with any decision, approval, disapproval, recommendation, preparation of any part of a program requirement or a purchase request, influencing the content of any specification or procurement standard, rendering of advice, investigation, auditing or in any other advisory capacity in any proceeding or application, request for ruling, determination, claim or controversy, or other particular matter, pertaining to any program requirement or a contract or subcontract or to any solicitation or proposal therefor. NMIAC Section 70-30.3-p725(a).

Kickbacks. It shall be a breach of ethical standards for any payment, gratuity or offer of employment to be made by or on behalf of a subcontractor under a contract to the prime contractor or higher tier subcontractor or any person associated therewith as an inducement for the award of subcontractor or order. NMIAC Section 70-30.3-725(b).

Contingent Fees. It shall be a breach of ethical standards for a person to be retained, or to retain a person, to solicit or secure government contracts upon an agreement or understanding for a commission, percentage, brokerage or contingent fee, except for retention of bona fide employees or bona fide established commercial selling agencies for the purpose of securing business. NMIAC Section 70-30.3-730.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so, would be in the best interests of the CNMI government. All proposals shall become the sole property of the CNMI government.

Virginia C. Villagomez
Governor's Authorized Representative

Francisco C. Aguon
Acting Director, Procurement & Supply

Opinion

Hafa Adair

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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EDITORIAL

Disability rules: Proposed change to Social Security plan has high cost

Chipping away at the safety net for the poor and sick isn't the way for the government to save money.

Proposed changes to the Social Security Disability system would do that and duplicate safeguards already in place to remove people who no longer need help from the rolls.

The proposed new rules by the Social Security Administration should be ditched.

To save money, the federal government would spend an estimated \$1.8 billion over 10 years by having millions of cases reviewed more often. That move might save \$2.6 billion over the same period, but advocates say it targets largely poorly educated people, many coping with housing troubles and often with intellectual or physical difficulties.

It's not easy to obtain Social Security Disability payments in the first place, with only four of 10 applicants approved for benefits. The complicated application process typically takes a few years. The average monthly payment barely keeps recipients above the poverty line. For most, it's the only income they have.

A review process is already in place; it's called a continuing disability review. Such reviews occur every three years in most cases, and they are saving money. The most recent report by the Social Security Administration touts \$14.3 billion in savings on benefit payments.

That's apparently not enough for the government.

The proposed change would schedule many reviews every two years.

Only a bureaucratic mind could dream up a scheme such as the new rule would impose.

First, a new category of disability is created into which hundreds of thousands of people will find themselves dumped.

The new category will be called Medical Improvement Likely, because the existing three categories aren't sufficient, according to the proposal.

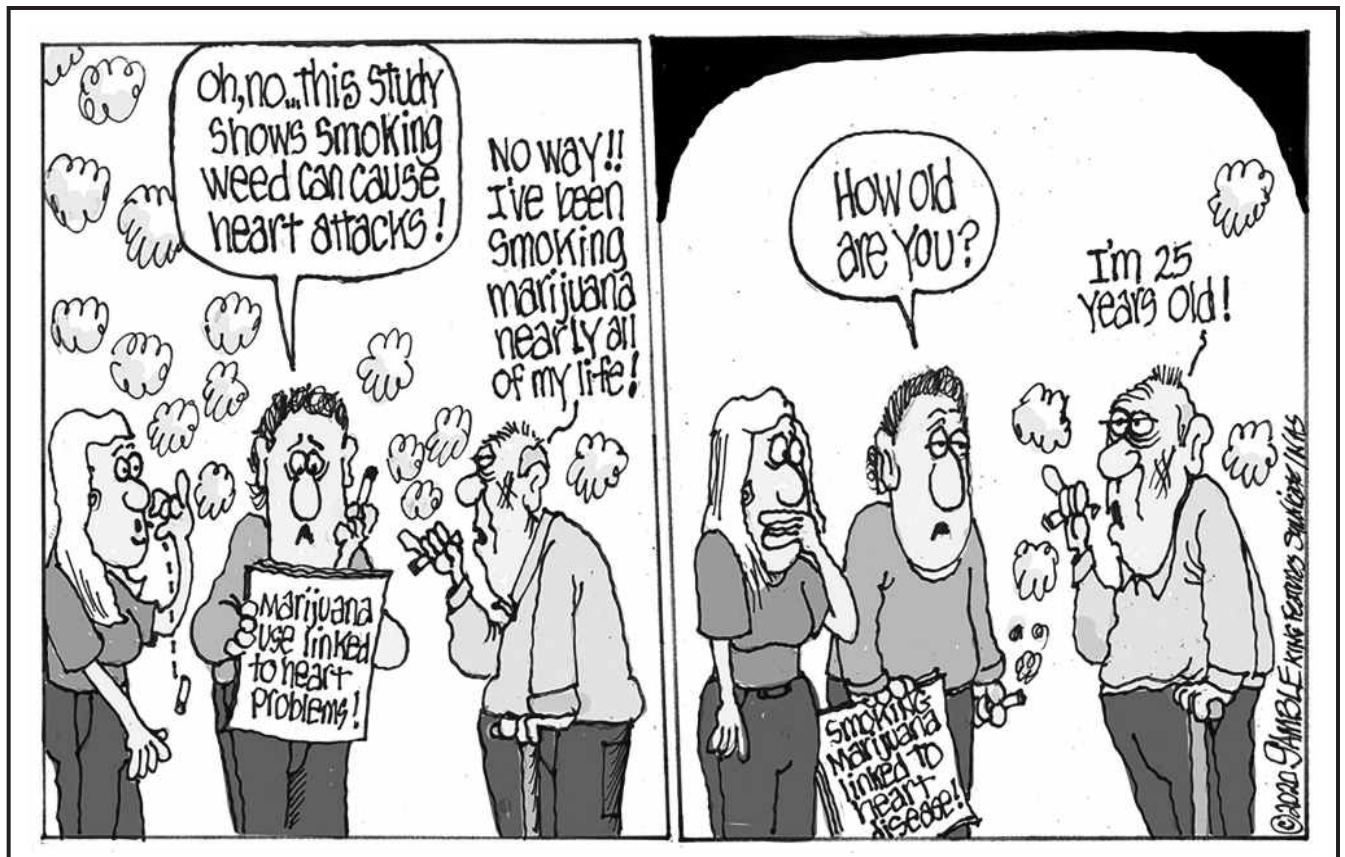
The new rule will mean any poor soul put into the new category will have more frequent claim reviews. Theoretically the government will catch improvement in the claimant's health more quickly than in the current review system.

Reviews require the person getting disability payments to file lots of paperwork and claimants will need to get to the hearings. More frequent reviews will make it tougher on claimants. Some might just give up or not be able to do the paperwork. That's an easy way to knock people off the rolls and save a bit of money.

That's not improving the process. It's not assuring the solvency of Social Security. It is a cruel way to hit some of the most vulnerable members of society.

Advocates for the disabled say the new rule would hit older and sicker beneficiaries disproportionately. Many of those beneficiaries face problems like intellectual limitations, housing issues and limited education.

See DISABILITY on Next Page



Legal fees: 5 things you should know but don't

Law is a business—a big business. In fact, American lawyers generated around \$300 billion in legal fees in 2018, and likely more in 2019.

But despite all of the money sloshing around, shopping for lawyers is difficult. It has very little in common with comparing choices on Amazon. The price is unpredictable and the lawyers themselves do not come with a handy rating system or a list of helpful reviews. Usually you pick a lawyer based on the recommendation of a friend or colleague who likely has little idea if their recommended lawyer is actually good at the type of work that you want done.

We are not going to solve all of those problems today. But by the end of the article, hopefully you'll have a better understanding about how to make sure that you aren't paying too much or, if you did, how to get some of your money back.

The first step is to talk about your situation with several lawyers. If you've talked with three lawyers and they all gave you similar quotes for the project, then you can be confident about what the going rate is for your case.

After that, ask the lawyer about their experience with your kind of case. This is important because law is among the broadest professional fields possible. It's impossible for any attorney to be experienced and knowledgeable about more than a few areas of law at once. For example, a lawyer that focuses on criminal defense and personal injury will generally not be the right person if you want help setting up a company or completing a real-estate deal. And, by extension, a transactional attorney who specializes in creating companies and doing real-estate deals will not be a good choice if you're facing a criminal charge.

Let's fast forward a bit. Assume you've hired a lawyer and received your first bill: What do you do if the bill seems too high? Ask the lawyer to explain why your bill says what it says. If they are an honest attorney, they will happily do so. And sometimes they'll even discount it. If, by contrast, they refuse or get defensive, that's a red flag.

Next, it's helpful to realize that even if you negotiated a bad deal with your lawyer, you are not out of luck. That's because the ethical rules governing lawyers (yes, they exist) prohibit lawyers from charging an unreasonable or excessive fee. A fair fee, in turn, is based on many factors such as the time required, the complexity of the case, the skill and experience of the lawyer, and the fees normally charged by lawyers within the community.

One implication of this rule is that even if you signed an engagement agreement with your lawyer (I hope you did), they cannot use that agreement to force you to pay an unreasonable amount. In other words, if the fee is unreasonable, it does not matter that the agreement says you'll pay it. In those cases, if a court gets involved, they will slash the bill or even eliminate it altogether. But before you get a court involved, you may want to ask another attorney for a second opinion.

FINE PRINT

By JORDAN SUNDELL

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jordan Sundell is a lawyer primarily practicing business, real estate, estate-planning, and asset-protection law. He formerly worked for the CNMI Supreme Court and Bridge Capital and is now general counsel for several real-estate companies, including JZ Group. His columns—focused mainly on real estate, small business, and estate planning—are published every other Tuesday. Be sure to like the Fine Print on Facebook!



For instance, let's say that you hire a lawyer to handle an uncontested probate of your mother's estate, which owns \$100,000 of land. Now assume that the lawyer doesn't ask for money. Instead, he wants a 30% interest in the land (i.e., \$30,000). This fee is unreasonable because the going rate for an uncontested probate is no more than a few thousand dollars. As a result, a court would reject the fee and admonish the lawyer.

Now let's talk about what happens if you dispute your bill: Can your lawyer quit the case? Not necessarily. But it's likely they will threaten to do so if you miss a payment or two. In that case, you don't have to decide between paying a bill that you think is unreasonable or finding a new lawyer (and paying them to get up to speed on the case). You have a third path. Put your objections in writing, pay a reasonable chunk of the bill, and then ask the lawyer to keep working.

Why does this approach work? Because a lawyer does not have an automatic right to stop representing a client. They can only do so in a few scenarios, one of which is that a client "fails to substantially fulfill an obligation to the lawyer regarding the lawyer's services and has been given a reasonable warning that the lawyer will withdraw unless the obligation is fulfilled" (Model Rule of Professional Conduct 1.16). Notice that the rule is not all-or-nothing. You simply need to "substantially fulfill" your obligation to pay. So, paying a reasonable portion of your disputed bill will make it hard for your lawyer to ethically exit the case.

So, where does that leave us? Finding a good lawyer and then getting a fair price sometimes feels like searching for the proverbial needle in the haystack. But we improve our chances if we start the process by speaking with several lawyers about their prices and expertise. And we do even better if we regularly check our bills and ask questions when they seem too high.

This column is for informational purposes only and is not intended to be taken as legal advice. For your specific case, consult a lawyer.

Torres responds to false press reports

My dear people of our Commonwealth:

Since the FBI executed search warrants at my office and home on Nov. 7, 2019, there have been numerous irresponsible press reports about the investigation and baseless speculation about what I am supposed to have done. A particular social media outfit, working together with my political opponents, has fueled this wild speculation about the FBI investigation and has also made additional false attacks against me, my family and my administration.

Confident that I have done nothing wrong, I said in November that the Governor's Office and I would cooperate with the investigation and that, once the actual evidence was considered, my name would be cleared. While I am every bit as confident that I will indeed be cleared, the campaign against me has spilled over to my wife, my family, and others in and out of government who in no way deserve this type of treatment. So while I hoped to respect the process and let it run its course, I feel that I must tell you directly what is truth and what are lies so that we can keep this administration on track to serve the best interest of the people of the Commonwealth.

Here are facts relevant to the FBI's investigation:

■ I have never been offered, nor have I accepted, any money or benefit in return for any decision I have made or any other official act. The speculation that I have been "paid off" by Imperial Pacific in return for official acts is wrong. Every decision I have made about casino gambling on Saipan has been based upon what I believe was in the best interest of the Commonwealth and its people. People can disagree about what is in the best interest of the Commonwealth, and I welcome that discussion. But to suggest that I did something corrupt to help the casino is flat out wrong and I will do everything in my power to fight this untrue allegation.

■ My brothers—Vince, Vic and Jack—run the Torres Brothers law firm. I have no financial interest in their firm. I have never promised to do anything in return for any fee they may have earned or any real estate transaction they participated in. In all of my decision-making, I never considered how some client of their firm, or business associate of theirs, might benefit. Further, I believe my brothers were never offered a business opportunity or legal work in the hope that I might look favorably on a client or business associate of theirs. All of the speculation and rumors about payoffs to my brothers are wrong.

■ There is no secret stash of cash at my house or anywhere else. I have no offshore bank accounts. The FBI searches found nothing. They even dug up the pig sty on my property in their misguided effort to find cash. Again, nothing. All of the rumors about millions in cash are just that: baseless rumors.

■ I have never knowingly received or solicited any campaign contribution from any company or individual that is unauthorized by law. There was an article stating that IPI contributed to the campaign, but it failed to mention that the contribution was never used and was returned when it was determined by the committee that it was not a contribution that could be accepted.

But the misinformation campaign goes way beyond what the FBI may be looking into. Some of these allegations are petty. Others are mean-spirited. What is clear is that they are motivated by a desire to hurt me politically, or worse. Some examples of just how outlandish these accusations are include a charge that I submitted a request for reimbursement for my wife's purchase of 54 cans of Vienna sausage, three bags of coffee, and two containers of salt, among other items, insinuating they were for her personal consumption. These purchases were in fact provided to the traditional voyagers who were here and staying at the Carolinian utt, having sailed from Palau and FSM, and were preparing their accompaniment of the CNMI canoe to the Festival of the Pacific Arts in Guam. The purpose of the purchase was clearly indicated on the receipt, a fact the social media post chose to ignore.

I have also been accused of purchasing a camera, speakers, and other equipment for my personal use. These allegations are likewise false. The equipment they characterized as a personal purchase was actually purchased for and turned over to our press office.

An especially mean-spirited accusation stated that I illegally purchased materials to renovate the office of the H.O.P.E. Rehabilitation Center Director, and that these were delivered to a DPS officer. This posting falsely alleged for some reason that

this officer was her personal security detail. I worked closely with the Judicial Branch, medical professionals, counselors, and others to set up the H.O.P.E. Rehabilitation Center to provide comprehensive counseling for drug users and an alternative to prison for individuals convicted of non-violent drug offenses. The new program did not have the funding or resources initially to acquire the materials for renovations to the center and other activities.

The supposed personal security for the director is actually an officer stationed at the center to ensure security for everyone there, due to the nature of the work at the center and the court-assigned live-in clients. This gross distortion of the facts not only hurts the personnel who have invested a lot of hard work to set up a very effective program, but smears a very worthwhile and important mission of this government. I am proud of supporting the H.O.P.E. Center and I will continue to do so because I believe that there is hope for those wanting a second chance at good life.

Equally disturbing was a charge made that I provided lavish dinners for Guam-based businesses and organizations who made donations toward the Yutu relief effort. This is another complete mischaracterization of the actual facts. These non-profit organizations and businesses from Guam went through great effort and expense to collect four 40-foot containers of relief supplies, collectively valued at over \$100,000, for the people of the CNMI. They also covered the costs of shipping those donations here. They invited me to dinner. The least I could do to thank these individuals for their efforts to bring this substantial relief to the people of the CNMI was to cover the cost of that dinner. It was the decent thing to do on behalf of the people of the CNMI, and was a small gesture to express our gratitude to them.

Another purposefully misleading allegation stated that I'd purchased a number of lavish meals for one person, when in fact the featured receipt reflected the day, time, and place of the hosting of a dinner for the president of Palau, which included members of the business community, the local Palauan community, and other officials.

My brothers, whom I love very dearly, have been accused of using their relationship with me to gain lucrative governmental contracts. The reality is quite the opposite. Prior to my election to the House of Representatives in 2008, my brothers, like many local attorneys, had various contracts with the CNMI government. In order to alleviate all inferences of any conflicts of interest, they have avoided contracts with the government since 2008 and had withdrawn as counsel from one many years ago. They are all still practicing attorneys who make their livelihoods in the CNMI representing residents and businesses, but they have avoided representing the CNMI government.

To be absolutely clear, I have not, nor has any member of my family, ever used public funds to acquire any item or service for personal use. Not once.

It is not in my nature to engage in personal or political attacks that would be counter to fostering an environment where we can

By **RALPH DLG. TORRES**

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Ralph DLG. Torres is the 9th governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and the youngest governor in the United States.

all work together to address our most important matters. "*Un Familia, Un Guinaiya, Tipiyeew*" is more than just a campaign slogan to me. We work better, move forward faster, and we are stronger when we work together as one family. This is why, despite the very acrimonious nature of the last election, I was very pleased that the leadership of the House of Representatives and the Senate put that election rancor behind them, attempting to build bridges and bring everyone to the table through the appointment of minority members to the various committees. It is unfortunate that some members of the minority in the Legislature did not opt to accept that olive branch, instead ramping up their efforts to create deeper division.

When I committed myself to public service nearly 12 years ago as a representative and at the youthful age of 28, I made this commitment for one reason and one reason only: to help improve the lives of the residents of my home the CNMI. In everything I have done and every decision I have made, from my time at the House of Representatives, to the Senate, to my tenure as the lieutenant governor alongside my mentor Gov. Eloy Inos, to my current role as governor, I've endeavored to achieve that one goal.

To the best of my ability, I will continue to carry out the work of the people. This is my duty. The people did not elect me to spend my days in petty political squabbles or to play political games to better position myself for future elections. That is not why I was elected, and that is not why I'm here.

I would like voters to measure me on my record of accomplishments, not the number of political fights I have picked.

Thank you to those who continue to carry out the work of this great Commonwealth, who continue to toil daily to get us beyond disaster recovery, and who endeavor to bring the community together to work toward our common goal of improving the lives of all of our residents. Most of all, thank you to my wife and partner, Diann, and our children. This has been a trying time for my family, and I am extremely blessed to have them in my life and by my side.

I am extremely proud of our accomplishments and will continue to work for many more in this time of service.

Thank you and I look forward to getting back to work that benefits our people.

Un Familia, Un Guinaiya, Tipiyeew.

Trumpty Dumpty Tweeter Tales

Lack of Truth from 45 the Uncouth—Apologies Due

Apologies to the thousands of children separated from parents and denial of toothbrushes and toiletries for their health care to their parents separated whereabouts unknown elsewhere to border workers weeping at the children's appearance to family and Sen. John McCain, prisoner hero in North Viet Nam to all the military families who had sons and daughters jailed injured, slain and or served time away from their own families while "Bone Spurs" 45 improved his golf game and sucked up bucks from Daddy denied blacks housing, drove home in a Caddy to thousands of career personnel and their families in the DOJ, FBI, US diplomats, and news media who he has insulted, denigrated, and ruined for the past three years and to their respective families.

Limericks for a Bigly Loser

His slogan "Make America Great Again" his presidency less than third rate has been America is and has always been great facts unknown to POTUS 45 an addlepat the likes of him will never be seen again. His mother, from Scotland, was an immigrant now about immigration he doth rave and rant and even though he's had two immigrant wives his cruel policy effects thousands of children's lives to hear, accept and or tell the truth he just can't.

Of the Constitution he's oblivious, filled with ignorance surrounding himself with billionaires and sycophants filled with himself he tweets and acts without thinking respect for the GOP and office of the president is sinking

LITERARY NOOK

By **JOEY 'PEPE' BATBON' CONNOLLY**

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Joey aka Pepe Batbon is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LVNV. He is a sonnet practitioner who enjoys stargazing.

now the US Senate has rec'd two articles of impeachment.

Here is a toast to impeached POTUS 45

on lies and insults he does thrive

who denigrated the FBI and Dept. of Justice

then expected foreign countries to trust us

he did know how to bully and connive.

A Case of a Pot US Calling the Kettle Black

"You're a bunch of dopes and babies."

—POTUS 45 said to Rex Tillerson, Secretary of State, and assembled generals and other U.S. military personnel in the room discussing what he called "a loser's war in Afghanistan."

When a bone head evolves from "bone spurs" was it a millionaire spoiled brat's evolution that proved him ignorant of a sensible solution incapable of understanding ifs, whys, and maybes he called US generals and other military "dopes and babies" just another tragic step in POTUS 45 devolution.

DISABILITY

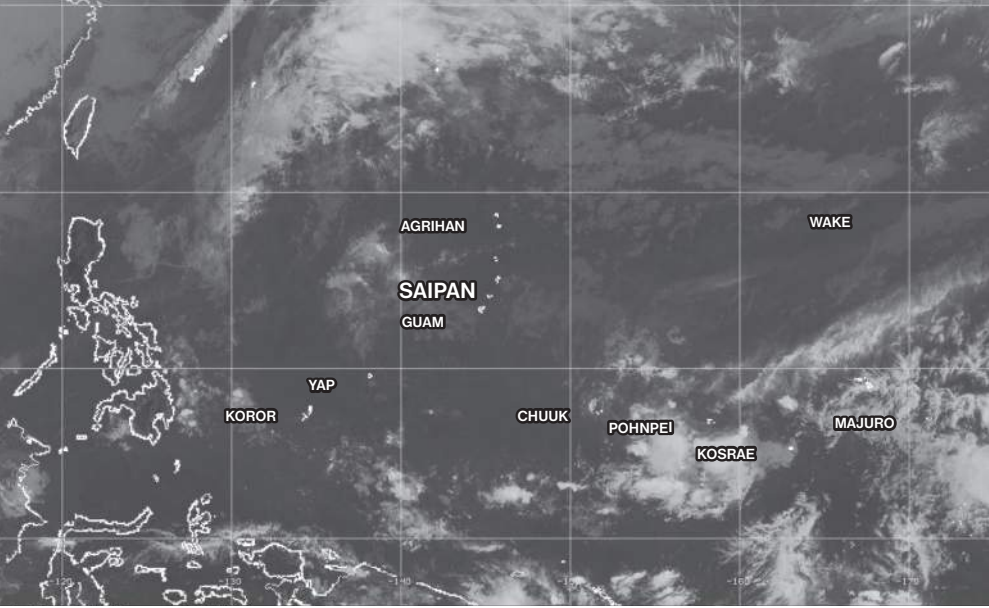
From Page 10

By cutting beneficiaries off from their main source of income, any savings will likely be lost because those individuals will need services and care with no way to pay for it. Families and communities will suffer the effects of any government savings.

Hitting the weakest members of society isn't the right way to cut the budget.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	
87°	74°	87°	76°	88°	76°	87°	75°	87°	75°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 6:50 AM, MONDAY, JANUARY 27, 2020
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite shows cloudiness from an old shear line fragment lingering over the Marianas, and radar shows scattered mainly light showers in Guam and Rota waters. Moderate to fresh trade winds have diminished slightly from the last few days. Combined seas at the buoys are 7 to 9 feet, dominated by east swell and east wind waves. Well east of the region, the disturbance near Kosrae appears to have pulled back to the east and weakened.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲▼°F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	84° / 76°	
Palau	Partly Cloudy	84° / 77°	
Yap	Partly Cloudy	86° / 79°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	84° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	86° / 81°	

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲▼°F
Auckland	Showers	75° / 66°	
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	48° / 23°	
Hong Kong	Sunny	66° / 52°	
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	82° / 69°	
London	Partly Cloudy	45° / 37°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	76° / 54°	
Manila	Mostly Sunny	88° / 73°	
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	84° / 63°	
Miami	Partly Cloudy	77° / 64°	
New York	Mostly Sunny	45° / 31°	
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	57° / 45°	
Paris	Showers	48° / 39°	
Busan	Mostly Cloudy	52° / 39°	
Rome	Showers	59° / 48°	
Salem	Sunny	63° / 41°	
San Francisco	Showers	55° / 45°	
Seoul	Cloudy	46° / 30°	
Tokyo	Showers	63° / 48°	
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	46° / 31°	

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
3:50 AM	LOW TIDE	-0.26	
10:40 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.60	
4:28 PM	LOW TIDE	0.87	
9:17 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.50	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:46 AM	6:12 PM
Wednesday	6:46 AM	6:13 PM
Thursday	6:46 AM	6:13 PM
Friday	6:46 AM	6:14 PM
Saturday	6:46 AM	6:14 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	9:03 AM	9:00 PM	-
Wednesday	9:40 AM	9:46 PM	-
Thursday	10:15 AM	10:32 PM	-
Friday	10:51 AM	11:18 PM	-
Saturday	11:26 AM	-	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 18, 2020				
DEPARTURES				
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				
UA117	9:15am	9:55am	Daily	
UA156	6:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6	
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				
SKY816	4:35pm	7:30pm	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7	
SKY816	5:05pm	8:00pm	6	
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				
7C3451	3:20am	6:30am	Daily	
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				
TW308	2:05am	6:05am	Daily	
OZ626	2:10am	6:05am	1	
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 5, 6, 7	
OZ626	3:35am	7:20am	4	
7C3403	4:35am	8:35am	Daily	
OZ6243	3:20pm	7:10pm	2, 4, 6	
OZ624	3:50pm	7:40pm	1, 3, 5, 7	
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily	
TW310	5:25pm	10:15pm	Daily	
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				
3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7	
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)				
JD396	7:30am	12:05pm	1	
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4	
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				
3U8646	4:30am	7:50am	2, 6	
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				
MU764	1:30am	6:00am	3, 5, 7	
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				
OZ626/701	2:10am	10:35am	1 via ICN	
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:35am	2, 3, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	
OZ626/721	3:35am	11:50am	4 via ICN	
UA117/183	9:15am	9:50pm	Daily via GUM	
UA117/193	9:15am	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR	
UA156/183	6:20pm	9:50pm	Daily via GUM	
UA156/193	6:20pm	11:50pm	2 via GUM-ROR	
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	
OZ626/721	3:35am	11:50am	4 via ICN	
UO43	5:40am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7	
OZ6243/9661	3:20pm	11:15pm	2, 4, 6 via ICN	
OZ624/9661	3:50pm	11:15pm	1, 3, 5 via ICN	
OZ624/9661	3:50pm	12:15am+1	7 via ICN	
ARRIVALS				
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN				
UA174	7:30am	8:11am	Daily	
UA112	4:45pm	5:26pm	2, 4, 6	
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN				
SKY811	10:15am	3:00pm	Daily	
BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN				
7C3452	9:35pm	2:30am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7	
7C3452	10:05pm	2:30am+1	3	
SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN				
OZ623	6:45am	12:10pm	5	
OZ623	7:00am	12:20pm	7	
OZ6233	7:30am	12:50pm	2, 4, 6	
OZ623	8:10am	1:40pm	1, 3	
7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily	
TW309	11:10am	4:25pm	Daily	
OZ625	7:30pm	1:00am+1	7	
TW307	7:45pm	1:05am+1	Daily	
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6	
OZ625	9:05pm	2:25am+1	3	
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily	
SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN				
3U8647	10:30pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7	
HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN				
JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4	
JD395	8:50pm	5:00am+1	7	
GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN				
3U864	8:10pm	3:10am+1	1, 5	
BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN				
MU763	4:50pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6	
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN				
UA189/174	12:40am	8:11am+1	3, 6 via GUM	
OZ702/625	12:05pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN	
OZ702/625	12:05pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via ICN	
OZ702/625	12:05pm	2:25am+1	3 via ICN	
UA192/174	10:40pm	8:11am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR	
UA184/174	10:55pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	
OZ704/623	11:45pm	12:10pm+1	5 via ICN	
OZ704/623	11:45pm	12:20pm+1	7 via ICN	
OZ704/6233	11:45pm	12:50pm+1	2, 4, 6 via ICN	
OZ704/623	11:45pm	1:40pm+1	1, 3 via ICN	
HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN				
OZ746/623	12:35am	12:10pm	5 via ICN	
OZ746/623	12:35am	12:20pm	7 via ICN	
OZ746/6233	12:35am	12:50pm	2, 4, 6 via ICN	
OZ746/623	12:35am	1:40pm	1, 3 via ICN	
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN	
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN	
OZ722/625	1:15pm	2:25am+1	3 via ICN	
UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7	
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6	

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, BC SkyMark ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily

1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Business

BANGKOK (AP)—Shares tumbled Monday in the few Asian markets open as China announced sharp increases in the number of people affected in an outbreak of a potentially deadly virus.

Many regional markets, including China's, were closed in Asia for Lunar New Year holidays. Australia was closed for Australia Day. Tokyo's Nikkei 225 index sank 1.8% to 23,389.49. India's Sensex lost 0.4% to 41,466.45, while the benchmark in Thailand dropped 2.2%. Indonesia's share benchmark was 0.8% lower.

China announced it was extending its week-long public holiday by an extra three days as a precaution against having the virus spread still further. By midnight Sunday, the National Health Commission said 80 people had died out of 2,744 cases that were confirmed.

Various governments have announced plans to evacuate people from Wuhan, the central Chinese city at the center of the pandemic. China halted outbound tours and Wuhan and some other cities stopped public transport, obliging tens of millions of people to stay where they are at the time of the country's peak travel season.

The virus can cause pneumonia and other severe respiratory symptoms. The World Health Organization has so far held off on declaring the situation a global emergency, which would bring more money and resources to fight it, but could trigger economically damaging restrictions on trade and travel.

"Traders who would be typically discussing the weekend football results are now sadly focusing on mortality scores this morning,"



A woman walks by an electronic stock board of a securities firm in Tokyo, Monday, Jan. 27, 2020.

AP

Asian stocks fall as virus fears spook markets, hit tourism

Stephen Innes of AxiCorp said in a commentary.

Apart from the direct impact on tourism and travel, "any economic shock to China's colossal industrial and consumption engines will spread rapidly to other countries through the increased trade and financial linkages associated with globalization," he said.

On Friday, the S&P 500 had its worst day since early October, dropping 0.9% as health care stocks saw steep

losses. The sell-off followed news that a Chicago woman had become the second U.S. patient diagnosed with the new virus from China.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average dropped 0.6% and the Nasdaq composite lost 0.9%. The yield on the 10-year Treasury fell to 1.64% from 1.74% Thursday.

Drugmaker Bristol-Myers Squibb led the slide in health care stocks, shedding 4.2%. Health insurers also fell. UnitedHealth Group dropped

2.2% and Amgen lost 3.4%.

Banks and other financial sector companies also took heavy losses, with credit card issuers among the biggest decliners. Discover Financial Services tumbled 10.1% and Synchrony Financial slumped 9.8%.

Airlines and several other companies in the travel and tourism industries fared poorly amid worries about the potential economic impact of the virus. United Airlines fell 5% and American Airlines dropped 5.6%. Cruise line operator Carnival fell 4.4%.

Investors have been shift-

ing money into safe-play, high-dividend stocks and U.S. government bonds. The surge in bond-buying has sent yields lower. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note fell to 1.67% from 1.74% late Thursday, a big move.

Investors also are digging through the latest batch of company earnings reports, including strong results from chipmaker Intel and American Express. Next week is shaping up as the busiest week for earnings reports, with roughly 40% of the companies in the S&P 500 due to

issue their results for the last three months of 2019.

Benchmark U.S. crude gave up \$1.25 to \$52.94 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. It lost \$1.40 to \$54.19 per barrel on Friday. Brent crude, the international standard, declined \$1.35 to \$58.54 per barrel. It shed \$1.39 to \$59.89 per barrel on Friday.

In currency trading, the dollar weakened to 109.07 Japanese yen from 109.28 yen. The euro strengthened to \$1.1029 from \$1.1025.

UK introduces new fast-track visa to attract scientists

LONDON (AP)— British Prime Minister Boris Johnson introduced a new fast-track visa to attract more of the world's best scientists to the U.K. in hopes of creating a global science "superpower."

Johnson paired the announcement of the Global Talent route program with a pledge of 300 million pounds (\$392 million) for research into advanced mathematics. The money will help fund researchers and doctoral students whose work in math underpins myriad developments

such as safer air travel, smart phone technology and artificial intelligence.

The new visa route will have no cap on the number of people able to come to the U.K. under the program. It starts next month.

"The UK has a proud history of scientific discovery, but to lead the field and face the challenges of the future we need to continue to invest in talent and cutting edge research," Johnson said in a statement. "That is why as we leave the EU, I want to send a

message that the U.K. is open to the most talented minds in the world, and stand ready to support them to turn their ideas into reality."

Britain is facing its biggest immigration shake-up in decades after it leaves the EU Friday.

After Brexit, EU citizens will lose the automatic right to live and work in the U.K., and Britons to settle in the bloc's 27 remaining nations.

That has sparked fears Britain may face shortages in key job areas.

Gas prices fall 4 cents a gallon to \$2.60 in past 2 weeks

CAMARILLO, Calif. (AP)—The average U.S. price of regular-grade gasoline has declined 4 cents a gallon to \$2.60 over the past two weeks.

Industry analyst Trilby Lundberg of the Lundberg Survey said Sunday that the pump price responded to a drop in crude oil costs.

The highest average price in

the nation for regular-grade gas is \$3.58 per gallon in Honolulu.

The lowest average is \$2.16 in Houston.

The average price of diesel is \$3.05, down two cents.

3M boosts production of facemasks as coronavirus spreads in China

By DEE DEPASS
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

3M has dramatically boosted production of its facemasks in at least two of its Chinese factories after Chinese news agencies reported that the plants ran out of stock in response to the sudden rise of a deadly Coronavirus in Wuhan, China.

3M officials would not confirm that they ran out of stock.

The Minnesota-based giant, however, said its factory employees are now working overtime making the protective facemasks that are now in high demand after the spread of a strain of coronavirus.

So far, the virus has killed at least 26 people in China and infected more than 900

worldwide, according to the Associated Press.

The United States has confirmed at least two cases, with both patients having returned from China with the virus. One is in Washington state, one in Chicago. There are two suspected cases in Minnesota.

China has now banned travel from 12 of its cities, including Wuhan, which has 11 million residents. The United States and other nations are aggressively screening travelers from China for fevers and other flu like symptoms that are common to the newly discovered coronavirus.

Travelers worldwide armed themselves with respiratory facemasks to shield themselves from the new virus. Chinese news agencies are

reporting that it's hard to keep masks on the shelves.

3M, which manufactures respiratory protection products at numerous locations around the world, is trying to meet customers' needs, said 3M spokeswoman Jennifer Ehrlich in an e-mail.

"We are working to continue respirator production during the Chinese New Year holiday," she said.

A statement from 3M said the company is working with distributors to meet inventory needs and "end-user demand."

"3M is committed to supporting the public health and governmental response to the coronavirus while maintaining supply to existing customers," the statement said.

Nation

Arizona, California cases push US tally of new virus to 5

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The U.S. has five confirmed cases of the new virus from China, all among people who traveled to the city at the center of the outbreak, health officials said Sunday.

Two new cases were reported Sunday—one in Los Angeles County in California and the other in Maricopa County, Arizona. The latter case was someone with ties to Arizona State University who did not live in school housing and had a history of travel to Wuhan, China, state health officials said.

Officials with the Arizona Department of Health Services said the Maricopa County patient wasn't severely ill and was in isolation at home to keep the illness from spreading. The department said it would not release potentially identifying information on the person, including the gender and age, and declined to say whether the person was a student or faculty member.

The LA patient alerted authorities that he wasn't feeling well upon arriving at Los Angeles International Airport. The patient was taken by ambulance to a hospital, health officials said at a Sunday news conference.

"Everything worked as it should," said Dr. Sharon Balter with the LA County Department of Public Health. "The patient presented for care, the patient was immediately transported to a hospital, the patient has remained in the hospital."

Officials did not provide details about the patient, except to say that the individual was a traveler from Wuhan, China.

The three previously reported cases were a patient in Orange County, California; a man in his 30s in Washington state; and a woman in her 60s from Chicago.

The virus can cause fever, coughing, wheezing and pneumonia. It is a member of the coronavirus family that's a close cousin to the deadly SARS and MERS viruses that have caused outbreaks in the past.

Dozens of people have died from the virus in China, which has issued massive travel bans in hard-hit sections of that country to try to stem spread of the virus. The U.S. consulate in Wuhan announced Sunday that it would evacuate its personnel and some private citizens aboard a charter flight.

In divided America, some voters tuning out impeachment trial

HAMBURG, Pa. (AP)—For all the gravity of a presidential impeachment trial, Americans don't seem to be giving it much weight.

As House impeachment managers make their case to remove President Donald Trump from office, voters in several states said in interviews with The Associated Press that they're only casually following the Senate trial, or avoiding it altogether—too busy to pay close attention, bored of the legal arguments, convinced the outcome is preordained or just plain tired of the whole partisan saga.

Web traffic and TV ratings tell a similar story, with public interest seeming to flag after the House voted last month to impeach a president for only the third time in U.S. history.

"I've been watching some really odd stuff just to avoid it," said Kim Ashford, 50, a court-appointed advocate for foster children from Gilbert, Arizona. "In my circle, everybody's tired of hearing about it. There's nobody budging. Let's just agree to disagree."

Monica DeMarco, who voted for Trump in 2016 but doesn't plan to do so again, said she hasn't watched a single second of the trial, though she's read a little about it in The New York Times.

"I want to watch something that takes me some place happy," said DeMarco, 50, who lives near Hamburg, Pennsylvania, and works for a cargo hauler.

"What's going to happen is going to happen and like the marching ants we are, we'll go on," DeMarco said. "Life's going to go on tomorrow, the sun's going to come up and we're going to take care of what's important in our lives."

Many Americans are tuning out because they made up their minds about Trump's impeachment months ago, said Eric Kasper, director of the Center for Constitutional Studies at the University of

Largest degree of polarization ever

Trump third year in office sets a new standard for party polarization

	Year in office (Dates)	% Approval		
		REP	DEM	GAP
Trump	3 (Jan '19-Jan '20)	89	7	82
Trump	2 (Jan '18-Jan '19)	87	8	79
Obama	8 (Jan '16-Jan '17)	12	89	77
Obama	4 (Jan '12-Jan '13)	10	86	76
G.W. Bush	4 (Jan '04-Jan '05)	91	15	76
Trump	1 (Jan '17-Jan '18)	83	8	75
Obama	7 (Jan '15-Jan '16)	10	83	73
G.W. Bush	5 (Jan '05-Jan '06)	86	14	72
Obama	5 (Jan '13-Jan '14)	11	82	71
Obama	6 (Jan '14-Jan '15)	9	79	70
G.W. Bush	6 (Jan '06-Jan '07)	79	9	70

Source: Gallup
Graphic: Staff, TNS

Wisconsin-Eau Claire. In addition, he said, there's little doubt about the eventual outcome—acquittal by the GOP-controlled Senate—depriving the trial of drama.

"If the story was still unwritten, so to speak, then people would still tune in even if they had personally strong feelings about how they would want it to end," Kasper said. "It's the fact that both of those things are the case—a lot of people have made up their minds, and it looks pretty clear what the outcome of this trial is going to be."

Americans are sharply divided along party lines in their views on impeachment, and most say their positions are firm. Three-quarters say it's not very likely or not at all likely that the trial will introduce new information that would change their minds, according to a poll this month from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

"I don't think there's any possibility of removal,

said Montel Herman, 82, of Osage, Iowa, who described himself as a moderate Democrat. "I question whether this is worth it."

Online and on TV, interest has waned since the House launched impeachment hearings into Trump's dealings with Ukraine.

The six major networks drew about 11.8 million viewers on the first day of the Senate trial, when lawmakers debated the rules and argued over documents and witnesses.

Combined viewership plummeted to fewer than 9 million people on the trial's second day, when House Democrats began making their argument to remove Trump from office, according to Nielsen.

By comparison, an estimated 13.8 million people watched the first day of the House impeachment hearings last fall.

"I think it matters. I think we should probably watch it," said Lynn Jackson, 56, a library assistant from San Tan

ACROSS THE NATION

Coroner: 2 dead, 7 injured in South Carolina bar shooting

HARTSVILLE, S.C. (AP)—Two people were killed and multiple people were injured early Sunday in a shooting at a bar in South Carolina, officials said. The shooting took place at Mac's Lounge in Hartsville, Darlington County. Coroner Todd Hardee told news outlets. The two victims were identified as Dicaprio Collins, 21, and Bryan Robinson, 29, according to the coroner's office. There was not any immediate information about what led to the shooting. The South Carolina Law Enforcement Division and the U.S. Marshals Service were assisting Hartsville police with the investigation. According to its Facebook page, Mac's Lounge also serves as a music venue. Hartsville is about 25 miles (40 kilometers) northwest of Florence, South Carolina, and about 40 miles (64 kilometers) south of the North Carolina state line. A witness, interviewed by WMBF, described a chaotic scene as bar patrons ran for their lives.

Inmate found dead at Mississippi prison

JACKSON, Miss. (AP)—A Mississippi inmate was found dead in his one-man cell, the corrections department said Sunday, the latest fatality in the state's troubled prison system. Joshua Norman, 26, was found hanging in his cell at the Mississippi State Penitentiary at Parchman, according to a news release from

the Mississippi Department of Corrections. Sunflower County Coroner Heather Burton said foul play is not suspected in the death. The investigation is ongoing, and an official cause and manner of death are pending autopsy results, the prison system said. At least 11 inmates have died in the state's prisons since late December, most of them in outbursts of violence. Most of the deaths occurred at the Mississippi State Penitentiary at Parchman. Prison officials have attributed some of the violence to clashes between gangs.

AP source: Bolton says Trump tied Ukraine funds to probe

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump said he wanted to maintain a freeze on military assistance to Ukraine until it aided political investigations into his Democratic rivals, former national security adviser John Bolton recounts in a draft of his forthcoming book. The revelation challenges the defense offered up by Trump and his attorneys in his Senate impeachment trial and raises the stakes as the chamber decides this week whether to seek sworn testimony from Bolton and other witnesses. Bolton's account was first reported by The New York Times and confirmed to The Associated Press by a person familiar with the manuscript on the condition of anonymity to discuss the book, "The Room Where It Happened; A White House Memoir," ahead of its release March 17.

Asia

BEIJING (AP)—China on Monday expanded sweeping efforts to contain a viral disease by extending the Lunar New Year holiday to keep the public at home and avoid spreading infection as the death toll rose to 80.

Hong Kong announced it would bar entry to visitors from the mainland province at the center of the outbreak following a warning the virus's ability to spread was increasing. Travel agencies were ordered to cancel group tours nationwide, adding to the rising economic cost.

Increasingly drastic anti-disease efforts began with the Jan. 22 suspension of plane, train and bus links to Wuhan, a city of 11 million people in central China where the virus was first detected last month. That lockdown has expanded to a total of 17 cities with more than 50 million people in the most far-reaching disease-control measures ever imposed.

The end of the Lunar New Year holiday, China's busiest travel season, was pushed back to Sunday from Thursday to "reduce mass gatherings" and "block the spread of the epidemic," a Cabinet statement said.

Tens of millions of people were due to crowd into planes, trains and buses to return to work after visiting their hometowns or tourist sites for the holiday. Schools will postpone reopening until further notice, the Cabinet said.

Also Monday, China's No. 2 leader, Premier Li Keqiang, visited Wuhan to "guide epidemic prevention work," the Cabinet website said. Photos on the site showed Li, in a blue smock and green face mask, meeting hospital employees.

The U.S. Consulate in Wuhan, said it was arranging to evacuate its diplomats and some American citizens on



In this Jan. 26, 2020, photo released by Xinhua News Agency, members of a military medical team head for Wuhan Jinyintan Hospital in Wuhan, central China's Hubei province. AP

China extends holiday to contain virus as **DEATH TOLL RISES**

Tuesday. The French government said it would fly its citizens in Wuhan to France and quarantine them there. Japan was preparing to fly its nationals out of Wuhan.

French automaker PSA Peugeot Citroen, which has a factory in Wuhan, said it was moving foreign employees and their families by bus to be quarantined in another city.

The disruption to business and consumer spending threaten to depress Chinese economic growth that Beijing is struggling to shore up after it sank to a multi-decade low of 6.1% last year. That could spread shockwaves to Asian economies that rely on China as a source of tourists and export markets.

Chinese regulators called

on banks and insurers in a statement Monday to support to people and companies affected by the outbreak.

The biggest impact will be on travel, hotels and restaurants but Chinese retail spending, factory output and investment also might suffer if the outbreak and quarantines last, forecasters say.

The outbreak is a "notable downside risk" to growth, though it "could potentially be a high impact but short-lived event," said Tommy Wu and Priyanka Kishore of Oxford Economics in a report.

They pointed to the example of the 2003 SARS outbreak, when economic activity plunged but recovered relatively quickly. The impact should be "less severe" than

SARS because of faster official reaction and "increased transparency," they said.

Abroad, economies including Hong Kong, Thailand, Vietnam, Singapore and Philippines with big tourism industries that rely on Chinese travelers "seem most at risk," said Wu and Kishore.

The National Health Commission said 2,744 cases were confirmed by midnight Sunday. There were 24 new deaths on Sunday, all in Hubei province, where Wuhan is located.

The youngest patient is a 9-month-old girl in Beijing. China also reported five cases in Hong Kong and two in Macao.

South Korea confirmed its fourth case Monday. Scat-

tered cases also have been confirmed in Thailand, Taiwan, Japan, the U.S., Vietnam, Singapore, Malaysia, Nepal, France, Canada and Australia.

The U.S. has confirmed cases in Washington state, Chicago, southern California and Arizona.

China's health minister, Ma Xiaowei, said the country was entering a "crucial stage" as "it seems like the ability of the virus to spread is getting stronger."

President Xi Jinping has called the outbreak a grave situation and said the government was stepping restrictions on travel and public gatherings while rushing medical staff and supplies to Wuhan.

The epidemic has revived

memories of the 2002-03 SARS outbreak that originated in China and killed nearly 800 people.

Then, Chinese authorities were criticized for reacting slowly and failing to disclose information. The government has responded more aggressively to the latest outbreak.

The National Health Commission said anyone traveling from Wuhan is required to register with community health stations and quarantine themselves at home for 14 days—the virus' maximum incubation period.

Hong Kong announced it would bar entry to travelers from Hubei, starting Monday. Hong Kong residents returning from the area will be allowed to the territory but were told to quarantine themselves at home.

Two of Hong Kong's most popular tourist attractions, Hong Kong Disneyland and Ocean Park, closed.

Also Sunday, Wuhan banned most vehicle use, including private cars, in downtown areas. The city will assign 6,000 taxis to neighborhoods to help people get around if they need to.

Wuhan is building two hospitals, one with 1,500 beds and another with 1,000, for the growing number of patients. The first is scheduled to be finished next week.

The National Health Commission said it is sending extra medical teams to Wuhan. The Chinese military dispatched 450 medical staff, some with experience in past outbreaks including SARS and Ebola.

The virus is from the coronavirus family that includes the common cold but also more severe illnesses like SARS and Middle East Respiratory Syndrome. The new virus causes cold- and flu-like symptoms, including cough and fever, and in more severe cases, shortness of breath and pneumonia.

List of places where virus has been confirmed

China has confirmed more than 2,700 cases of a new virus, with 80 deaths. Most have been in the central city of Wuhan where the illness first surfaced last month. More than 40 cases have been confirmed in other places with virtually all of them involving Chinese tourists or people who visited Wuhan recently.

Some details on cases confirmed as of midday Monday in Beijing:

■ China: 2,744, with 769 of those newly confirmed in the 24 hours through midnight Sunday. Five are in Hong Kong and two in Macao. Nearly all of the 80 deaths have been in Hubei province, with four elsewhere in China.

■ United States: 5, 2 in southern

California and 1 each in Washington state, Chicago, and Arizona.

- Thailand: 8
- Australia: 5
- South Korea: 4
- Japan: 4
- Singapore: 4
- Malaysia: 4
- France: 3
- Taiwan: 3
- Vietnam: 2
- Canada: 1
- Nepal: 1

Source: Associated Press

China temporarily bans wildlife trade in wake of outbreak

BEIJING (AP)—Chinese authorities temporarily banned the trade of wild animals Sunday following a vi-

ral outbreak in Wuhan, saying they will "severely investigate and punish" violators.

Local authorities will "strengthen inspections and severely investigate and punish those who are found in violation of the provisions of this announcement," read the ban issued by three government agencies.

No wildlife can be transported or sold in any markets or online, according to text of the announcement in state media. Suspected violators will be sent to security services, and their will be properties closed and sealed. Legal breeding centers will be quarantined.

The ban will continue until "the epidemic situation is lifted nationwide" in order to prevent the spread of the new coronavirus and block potential sources of infection and transmission.

The three agencies also opened a hotline where people can report violations, and called on the public to refrain from eating wild animal meat. The agencies are the State Administration of Market Regulation, Ministry of Agricultural and Rural Affairs and the National Forestry and Grassland Administration.

Japan: Flight readied for Japanese to come home from Wuhan

TOKYO (AP)—Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said Sunday that he is making arrangements to fly Japanese people home from the Chinese city of Wuhan, the epicenter of an outbreak of a new viral illness that has killed dozens.

Abe told reporters that Japanese

who wish to be evacuated will be flown out on a chartered flight. He said he is in talks with China on the plan, and Japanese officials had been working on such preparations through the weekend.

"I have decided to have all those who wish to do so to come home," Abe said, stressing that various options had been studied in recent days.

The new virus has been linked with 56 deaths so far in China.

The U.S. Consulate in Wuhan announced Sunday that it will evacuate its personnel and some private citizens aboard a charter flight.

The French Consulate also was considering an evacuation of its nationals from the city. It said it's working on arranging a bus service to help French citizens leave Wuhan.

World

Turkish teams hunt for quake survivors as death toll hits 38

ANKARA, Turkey (AP)—Working against the clock in freezing temperatures, Turkish rescue teams pulled more survivors from collapsed buildings Sunday, days after a powerful magnitude 6.8 earthquake hit the country's east. Rescued survivors wept with gratitude for their efforts.

Turkish authorities said the death toll rose to at least 38 people from the magnitude 6.8 earthquake that struck Friday night.

Turkish television showed Ayse Yildiz, 35, and her 2-year-old daughter Yusra being dragged out of the rubble of a collapsed apartment building in the city of Elazig. They had been trapped for 28 hours.

The quake also injured over 1,600 people but at least 45 survivors have been pulled alive from the rubble so far, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan told a news conference Sunday in Istanbul.

More than 780 aftershocks rocked the region as over 3,500 rescue experts scrambled through wrecked buildings to reach survivors, working around the clock. Rescue teams concentrated their efforts in the city's Mustafa Pasa neighborhood and the nearby town of Sivrice.

One rescued couple was reunited with a Syrian student who had helped to dig them out of their collapsed home with his hands.

"He is our hero and angel," a weeping Dudane Aydin said of Mahmud al Osman in an interview on Turkey's state-run Anadolu news agency.

Her husband Zulkuf added: "When I saw the light of



Mahmud's phone, we started shouting for help. Then we knew we would get out."

He said Mahmud helped him out but when the student tried to rescue his wife her leg was trapped by debris.

"Some locals held Mahmud by the legs and stretching towards my wife he worked to save her. After saving my wife, he tried to help others," the man said.

As overnight temperatures dropped to -5 degrees Celsius (23 degrees Fahrenheit), emergency teams set up more than 9,500 tents for displaced residents and distributed 17,000 hot meals.

The agency said 76 buildings were destroyed and more than 1,000 were damaged by the quake. Unmanned aerial drones were being used to survey damaged neighborhoods and coordinate rescue efforts.

The Turkish Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency said 20 of the aftershocks measured magnitude 4.0 or above, including a magnitude 4.3 quake that hit the neighboring province of Malatya on Sunday morning.

Erdogan said every effort was being made to find survivors and promised to house displaced residents as soon as possible.

"Turkey has begun to heal the wounds of this great disaster in unity, togetherness and coming together," he said.

At least 104 people were receiving hospital treatment after the quake, 13 of them in intensive care, Health Minister Fahrettin Koca said.

Interior Minister Suleyman Soyly promised financial help for the victims of the quake. He then attended the funeral of five members of the same family—a married couple, their daughter and two grandchildren—with other ministers and officials. The 12-year-old boy was buried in the same

coffin as his baby sister.

"You arrived two months ago. I wish you had stayed a little longer," the children's father, Serhat Aslan, said of his daughter.

On Saturday, the president visited the disaster zone to inspect the rescue operation, meet with injured people in the hospital and attend the funeral of a mother and son.

Erdogan also condemned what he called a "smear campaign" on social media by those questioning the Turkish government's preparations for earthquakes. A prosecutor in Ankara has opened an investigation into social media posts

Rescue workers continue to look for people trapped under debris following a strong earthquake that destroyed several buildings on Friday, in Elazig, eastern Turkey, Sunday, Jan. 26, 2020.

about Friday's quake.

Earthquakes are frequent in Turkey, which sits atop two major fault lines.

Across Turkey, there was an outpouring of support for the quake victims. Some soccer clubs announced they would donate the receipts of their weekend matches while fans of the Fenerbahce soccer club threw scarves and hats on to the field during a game in Istanbul, chanting "Cold Elazig, Fenerbahce is with you!"

Quake victims were taking refuge in tents, mosques, schools, sports halls and student dormitories. Authorities warned people not to return to homes that could be unsafe.

A prison in Adiyaman, 110 kilometers (70 miles) southwest of the epicenter, was evacuated due to quake damages, with more than 800 prisoners transferred to nearby jails.

Friday's main quake hit at 8:55 p.m. in the city that lies 565 kilometers (350 miles) east of Ankara. It's not the first time that Elazig has seen a fatal quake—a magnitude 6.0 earthquake killed 51 people there in 2010.

Turkey's worst quake in decades came in 1999, when a pair of strong earthquakes struck northwest Turkey, killing around 18,000 people.

20 Mali soldiers killed at army camp attacked by gunmen

BAMAKO, Mali (AP)—Gunmen attacked an army camp in Mali near the border with Mauritania, killing 20 soldiers Sunday, the government and armed forces said.

The camp in Sokolo in the Segou region remains under the control of Mali's military, the armed forces said in a statement on Twitter.

Mali's government said there was significant material

damage in the attack, and that reinforcements have been dispatched. Aerial reconnaissance is underway to track down the gunmen, it said in a statement condemning the attack.

Souleymane Maiga, a resident of Sokolo, said the attackers temporarily had taken control of the camp.

"The army camp was attacked this morning by gunmen," he said. "The attack-

ers temporarily took control of the camp and destroyed everything before leaving. Many of the soldiers who were in the camp took refuge in the village."

The attack wasn't claimed but bears the hallmarks of jihadi groups linked to al-Qaida that are based in the Wagadu forest, located about 50 kilometers (30 miles) from the attacked village.

Dutch premier issues historic apology at Holocaust memorial

AMSTERDAM (AP)—Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte apologized Sunday for the failure of officials in the Nazi-occupied country during World War II to do more to prevent the deportation and murder of just over 100,000 Jews.

Rutte made the historic apology at the country's annual Holocaust commemoration in Amsterdam that came on the eve of the 75th anniversary of the liberation of the Aus-

chwitz Nazi death camp.

While he praised resistance fighters, citizens who helped Jews to hide from the Nazi occupiers and workers who went on strike in support of Jews, Rutte said it was collectively not enough.

"Too little protection. Too little help. Too little recognition," the premier said.

"Now the last survivors are still among us, I apologize today on behalf of the govern-

ment for the authorities' actions at the time," Rutte added.

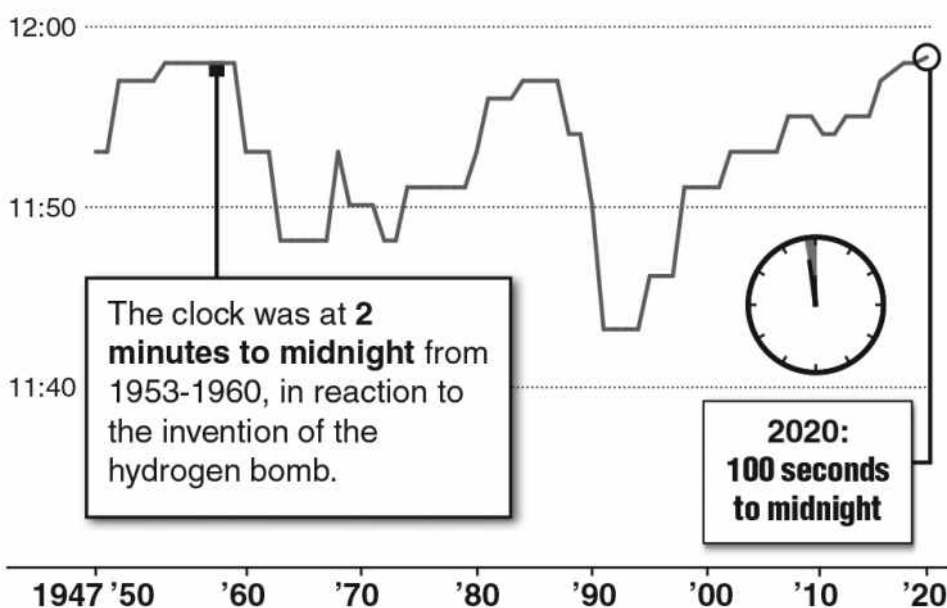
Holocaust survivor Zoni Weisz told Dutch national broadcaster NOS that it was an emotional moment.

"It was beautiful," he said, before adding: "It's a shame it had to take 75 years before we were offered an apology."

Of the 140,000 Jews who lived in the Netherlands at the outbreak of World War II, only 38,000 survived.

Doomsday Clock

The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists maintains a metaphorical Doomsday Clock, with midnight representing global catastrophe by nuclear weapons or climate change. On Thursday the clock was moved forward to 100 seconds to midnight.



Source: Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists

Graphic: Tribune News Service

Focus

75th anniversary of the liberation

A U S C H W I T Z

On January 27, 1945, Soviet forces liberated the Auschwitz concentration camp complex in German-occupied Poland. Russian soldiers discovered thousands of sick, dying, and dead prisoners when they entered the complex of concentration camps, forced labor camps, and a killing center abandoned by the Nazis.

The camps

Auschwitz was a collection of three major death camps and more than 45 subcamps in southern Poland; most of the prisoners were gassed and the others worked as slave laborers at the camps and in nearby factories, farms and mines, supporting the Nazi war effort

Auschwitz

Known as Auschwitz I, the main camp was begun in 1940; the first victims – 600 Soviet POWs and 250 sick prisoners – were gassed in September 1941; when the “Final Solution” was implemented in March 1942, trains from all over Europe began bringing Jews to the camps

Auschwitz area

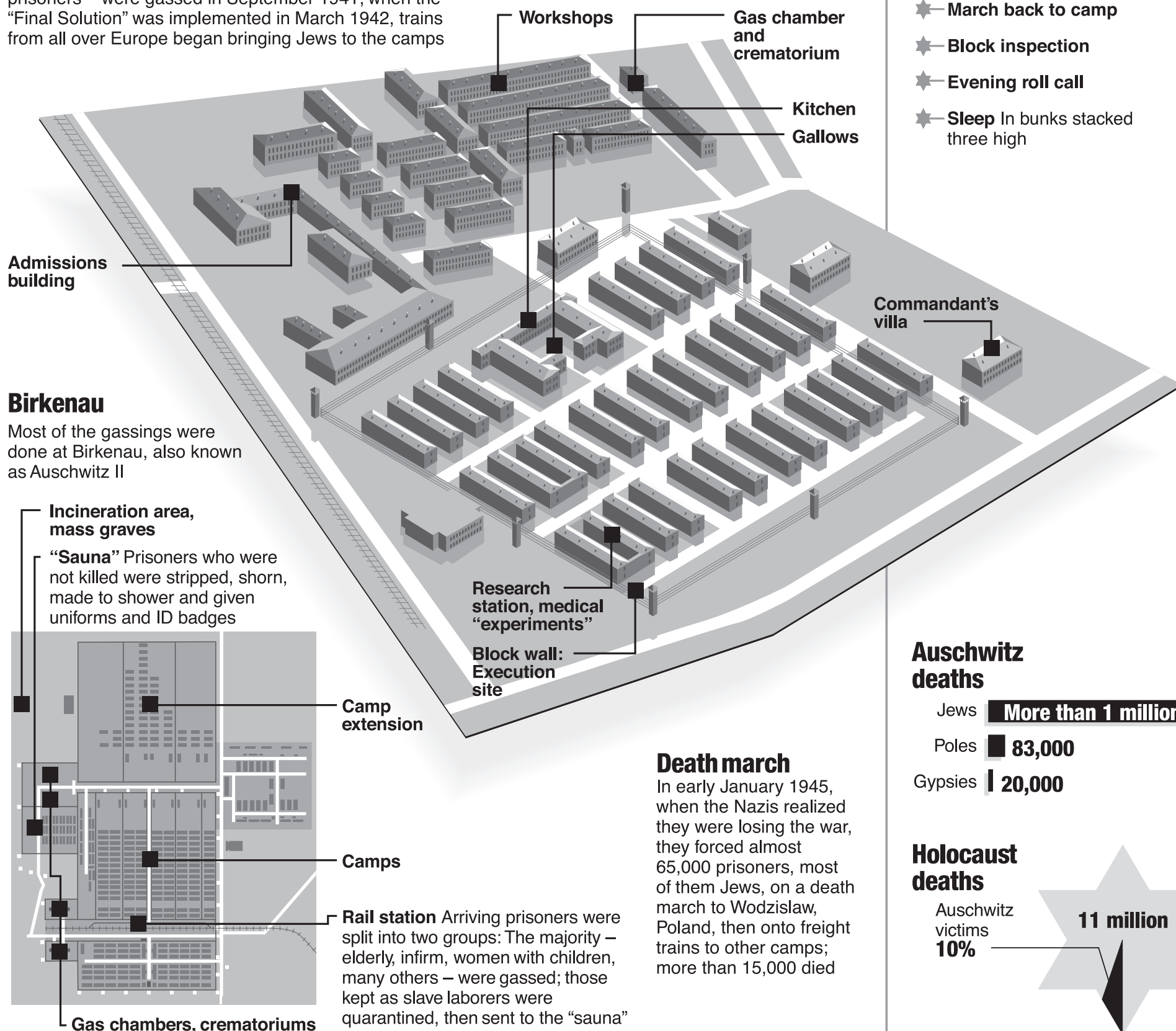


Major Polish death camps



Regimented days

- ★ **Wake** At dawn, straighten bed
- ★ **Attend roll call** Prisoners forced to stand motionless at attention for hours, sometimes in cold, rain or snow; those who stumbled or fell were killed
- ★ **March to work**
- ★ **Work**
- ★ **Eat** Stand in line for meal
- ★ **March back to camp**
- ★ **Block inspection**
- ★ **Evening roll call**
- ★ **Sleep** In bunks stacked three high



Birkenau

Most of the gassings were done at Birkenau, also known as Auschwitz II

Death march

In early January 1945, when the Nazis realized they were losing the war, they forced almost 65,000 prisoners, most of them Jews, on a death march to Wodzislaw, Poland, then onto freight trains to other camps; more than 15,000 died

Auschwitz deaths

Jews	More than 1 million
Poles	83,000
Gypsies	20,000

Holocaust deaths

Auschwitz victims
10%

11 million

Overdrive

By MIKE LINDBLOM
THE SEATTLE TIMES

PROVIDENCE, R.I.—Heads turn and smartphone cameras rise as the boxy, futuristic cars slip through the streets of this 384-year-old port city.

Equipped with laser sensors, video cameras and sophisticated software, the cars drive themselves—mostly—picking up passengers along a route from downtown, through an area of old textile mills resurrected as loft apartments and into a lower-income neighborhood.

The six electric vehicles known collectively as Little Roady navigate a 5-mile loop in regular traffic and steer themselves into 10 curbside stops, giving lawyers and laborers alike a free ride.

The five-passenger cars being tested here by Michigan-based MayMobility are among several autonomous vehicle (AV) experiments across the country.

The service in Providence started last spring, carrying an average of 150 riders a day.

“It is the most advanced technology anyone has seen in Providence,” raved Hector Delgado, one of the safety attendants behind the joystick in each of the vehicles, ready to take control when needed.

Rather than promise on-demand trips everywhere, which some experts say may not be feasible for decades, Little Roady follows a limited route, where onboard computers take data from the sensors and cameras to learn the lay of the land.

That should help MayMobility become commercially viable soon to serve eco-minded, transit-friendly cities, said Alisyn Malek, chief operating officer. Toyota invested \$50 million last month.

The back-seat view from Little Roady, during two frosty days last month, shows how far the technology has come, and the daunting path ahead.

Safety attendants control the cars about 30% of the time, said Peter Alviti, director of the Rhode Island Department of Transportation.

“It’s a good test bench, because it provided a wide array of Rhode Island streets,” said Alviti. “I’m pleasantly surprised at how safe and highly functional they are.”

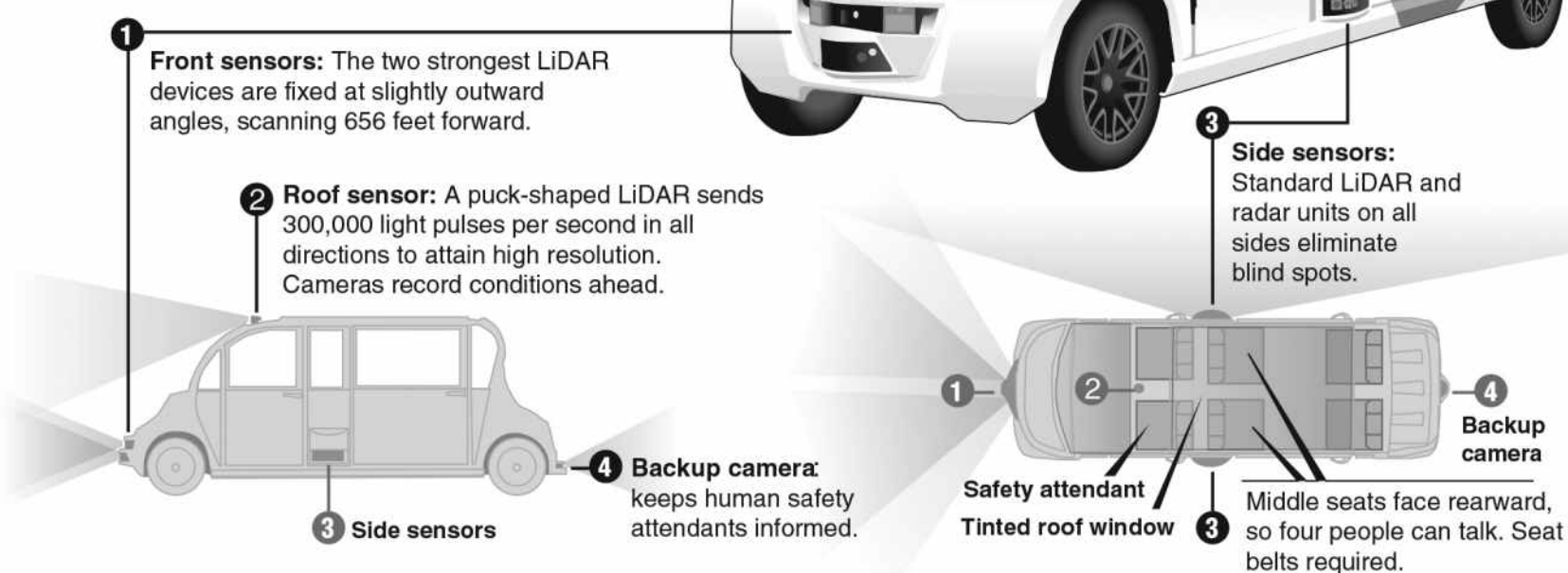
The state reports nine non-injury incidents since the pilot project launched in May, such as curb strikes or cars bumping AVs from behind.

The AVs can steer clear of taxis at the Amtrak station, stop for a downhill traffic light under a freeway, slow for speed humps in a school zone. They find their way to the ap-

Little Roady's anatomy

MayMobility equips Polaris electric vehicles with light-detection and ranging (LiDAR) units, which emit pulsed lasers to detect objects and people. Each car carries at least 10 LiDAR devices by three suppliers, LeddarTech, Cepton and Velodyne, as well as 10 radar scanners.

- **Height: 6 feet**
- **Width: 5 ft., 3 in.**
- **Length: 14 ft., 8 in.**
- **Weight: 1,650 pounds**
- **Turning radius: 22 feet**
- **Passengers: Five, plus safety attendant**
- **Top speed: 25 mph**
- **Power: Lithium-ion batteries**
Batteries harvest kinetic energy from regenerative braking. They're charged at a maintenance base using 220-volt cables.



Source: LIDAR Magazine, MayMobility, Polaris, Cepton, Velodyne, LeddarTech

Graphic: Mike Lindblom, Mark Nowlin, The Seattle Times/TNS

Are self-driving cars a solution for transit?



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL/TNS

Edwin Olson, CEO of May Mobility, with one of the autonomous vehicles.

pointed stops, then find openings to reenter the traffic lane.

“This is awesome. It takes off the extra walk, especially during the cold weather,” said John Dias, a carpenter headed to work fixing old boats. He can sense autonomous mode, because the car feels led by a rope.

“You can tell because it pulls itself along,” Dias said. “You can talk to the driver, they get to be more conversational, because it takes care of itself.”

The cars are sometimes flummoxed by what they’re seeing. A Little Roady in December halted when sunrise glare bounced off another car. Later that day, vehicle exhaust

ahead stopped an AV when a traffic signal turned green. The lasers can perceive rain and snow as a fusillade of solid objects.

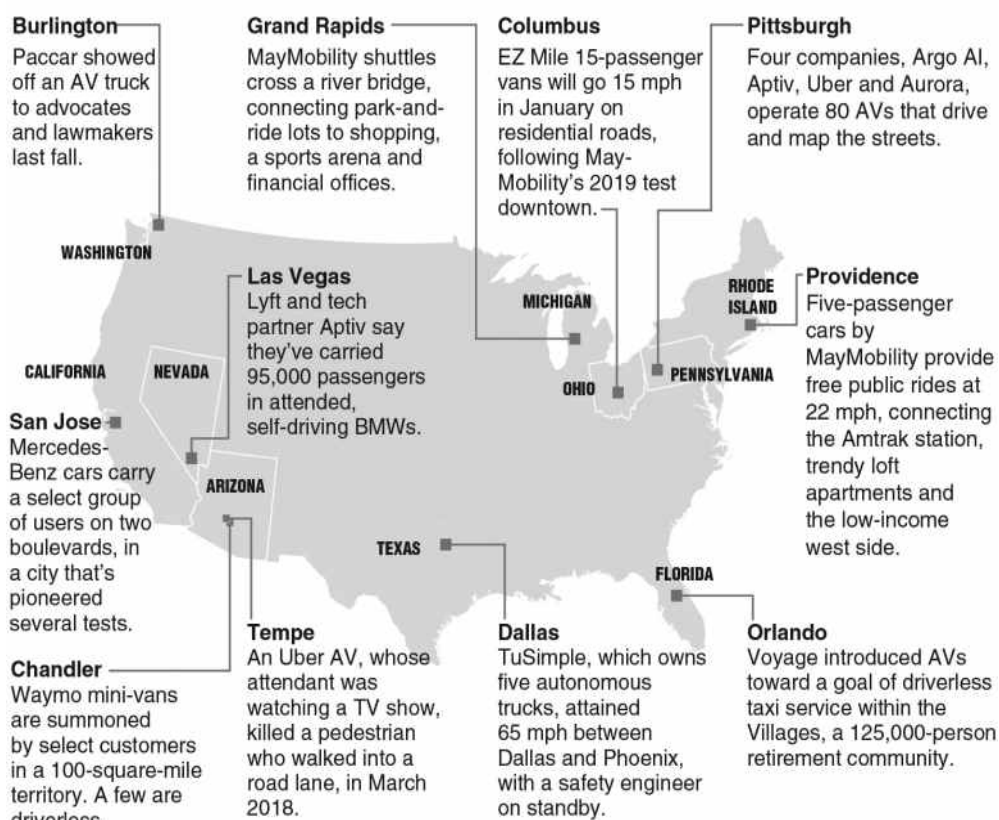
“That’s one of the beauties of operating in places like Rhode Island,” Malek said during a ride. “And that data helps us to validate our software, to make sure we understand what we’re seeing, and can actually pull out the ‘noise’ from what we are seeing.”

She anticipates using radar to help the software distinguish droplets from objects.

Because they obey speed limits, Little Roady cars are constantly honked at or passed.

Self-driving cars, coast to coast

Numerous road tests are underway for autonomous vehicles (AVs), many with safety attendants on board but some fully driverless.



Graphic: Mike Lindblom, Mark Nowlin, The Seattle Times/TNS
Source: Seattle Times reporting, NBC News, Aspen Institute, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, MayMobility, Waymo.

Life & Style

The edgy, avant-pop album that siblings Billie Eilish and Finneas created in a small bedroom made a big splash at the 2020 Grammy Awards, winning 11 honors for the musical family.

"When We All Fall Asleep, Where Do We Go?"—created in the musicians' Los Angeles home—helped Eilish win the top four honors, including album, song and record of the year, along with best new artist. The 18-year-old is the youngest artist to achieve the feat and the first to do so since Christopher Cross did in 1981.

Finneas—who co-wrote, produced and engineered the album, walked away as Sunday's top winner with six. Eilish won five honors.

"We didn't write a speech for this because we didn't make this album to win a Grammy. We didn't think it would win anything ever. We wrote an album about depression and suicidal thoughts and climate change and being the bad guy—whatever that means—and we stand up here confused and grateful," Finneas said onstage.

Together, they also won best pop vocal album, while Finneas' individual honors included producer of the year (non-classical) and best engineered album (non-classical).

"This is my first Grammys. I never thought this would happen in my whole life," Eilish said. "I genuinely wanna say I am so grateful and I only wanna say that I am so grateful."

"This is to all the kids who are making music in the bedroom today—you're going to get one of these," Finneas added.

The bedroom where they created magic was brought to life when they hit the stage and performed "When the Party's Over," which featured Finneas on keys and Eilish singing in a soft, pitch perfect tone.

Los Angeles, where the show was held, had a central theme at the show Sunday: hometown heroes Nipsey Hussle and Kobe Bryant, a global icon, were honored and celebrated at the show.

The Grammys kicked off with a performance in honor of Bryant, who died hours before the awards along



Billie Eilish, left, and Finneas O'Connell pose in the press room with the awards for best album, best engineered album and best pop vocal album for "We All Fall Asleep, Where Do We Go?," best song and record for "Bad Guy," best new artist and best producer, non-classical at the 62nd annual Grammy Awards at the Staples Center on Sunday, Jan. 26, 2020, in Los Angeles. AP

FAMILY AFFAIR

Billie Eilish, Finneas win big at Grammys

with his daughter and seven others. And later in the show Hussle's collaborators and friends, including DJ Khaled, John Legend, Meek Mill, Kirk Franklin, Roddy Ricch and YG, gave an all-star tribute to the man who died last year.

Hussle also posthumously won his first pair of Grammys on Sunday.

Filmmaker Ava DuVernay introduced the performance, which featured band players, background dancers and Legend wearing traditional Ethiopian and Eritrean clothing in honor of Hussle's African roots. Mill performed a new song called "Letter to Nipsey" while others joined together for "Higher," which won best rap/sung performance.

"This is for Nipsey Hussle. This is

for hip-hop," said DJ Khaled, who collaborated on the song with Legend and Hussle, whose family stood onstage.

"We all love him. We all miss him. It's terrible that we had to lose him so early," Legend said. "We've seen some tragedy today and last year ... let's hold each other tight."

The show—which took place at the Staples Center, Bryant's old stomping ground—began with a touching, emotional and a cappella performance of "It's So Hard to Say Goodbye to Yesterday" by host Alicia Keys and Boyz II Men.

"Los Angeles, America and the world-wide world lost a hero," Keys said, adding that the audience was "heartbroken in the house that Kobe Bryant built."

"Right now Kobe and his daughter Gianna ... are in our spirits, they're in our hearts, they're in prayers, they're in this building," she said. "Take a moment and hold them inside of you and share our strength and our support with their families."

Before the show officially honored Bryant, Lizzo performed the songs "Truth Hurts" and "Cuz I Love You," saying at the top of the show: "Tonight is for Kobe."

Lizzo won three honors, including best pop solo performance for "Truth Hurts" and two R&B awards.

"Hold on one second," she said, catching her breath. "Thank you to the academy. This is really (expletive) sick."

Lizzo was among the mix of

newcomers and well-known acts who reached their goals of winning their first-ever Grammy Awards on Sunday, which also included Tanya Tucker, J. Cole, DJ Khaled, Eilish, Lil Nas X, Billy Ray Cyrus, Michelle Obama, Sara Bareilles, Rosalía, 21 Savage and Tyler, the Creator.

"To my mother, you did a great job raising this guy," Tyler, who won best rap album, said to his mom, who was onstage and crying by side.

More crying took place Sunday.

Demi Lovato, who has mostly taken a break from the public since focusing on her recovery after reportedly overdosing in July 2018, gave a stirring, vocally top-notch performance that earned her a standing ovation. She was so emotional that she had to restart the song as a tear-drop ran down her cheek.

Camila Cabello's performance of "First Man"—a song dedicated to her father—also induced tears. Cabello walked off the stage to her dad's seat to finish singing the song in front of him, while he teared up. Audience members were emotional, too, including Gwen Stefani.

Ariana Grande had a lengthy performance—probably to make up for the drama that surrounded her axed performance last year. Run DMC joined forces with Aerosmith to rock the Grammys stage, while Usher, Sheila E. and FKA twigs paid tribute to Prince.

Lil Nas X brought the story of "Old Town Road" to life by performing alongside the artists who helped the song stay at No. 1 for 19 weeks through various remixes, including BTS, Mason Ramsey, Diplo and the track's main co-star, Billy Ray Cyrus.

Veteran rapper Nas then joined Lil Nas X for a new song, shouting out Bryant at the end: "Kobe, we love you."

A dark cloud loomed over ceremony since the Recording Academy announced it had put its recently hired CEO, Deborah Dugan, on administrative leave for misconduct. Dugan and her lawyers fired back at the academy, claiming that the awards show is rigged.

But no mention of Dugan was directly made during the three-plus-hour show. (AP)

Grammy Awards honor Kobe Bryant with touching performance

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The 2020 Grammy Awards kicked off in tribute to basketball icon Kobe Bryant, who died hours before the show, with a touching, emotional performance led by host Alicia Keys.

Keys was joined by Boyz II Men on Sunday to sing an a cappella version of "It's So Hard to Say Goodbye to Yesterday" at the Staples Center—Bryant's stomping ground—as the audience watched in awe.

"Here we are together on music's biggest night celebrating the artists that do it best, but to be honest with you we are all feeling crazy sadness right now," Keys said as she entered the stage, adding that "Los Angeles, America and the world-wide world lost a hero."

She said the audience was "heartbroken in the house that Kobe Bryant built."

"Right now Kobe and his daughter Gianna ... are in our spirits, they're in our hearts, they're in prayers, they're in this building," she

added. "Take a moment and hold them inside of you and share our strength and our support with their families."

Before the show officially honored Bryant, Lizzo performed the songs "Truth Hurts" and "Cuz I Love You," saying at the top of the show: "Tonight is for Kobe."

Lizzo was among the mix of newcomers and well-known acts who reached their goals of winning their first-ever Grammy Awards on Sunday, which also included Tanya Tucker, J. Cole, Billie Eilish, Lil Nas X, Billy Ray Cyrus and late rapper Nipsey Hussle.

Michelle Obama, Sara Bareilles, Rosalía and 21 Savage also became official Grammy winners when the show handed out trophies during its pre-telecast ceremony.

Gary Clark Jr. and Eilish's brother, Finneas, walked away as the most awarded stars, so far, taking home three awards each.

Finneas—who co-wrote, produced and en-

gineered his sister's debut album, "When We All Fall Asleep, Where Do We Go?"—won best engineered album (non-classical), best pop vocal album (shared with his sister) and non-classical producer of the year.

"My heart is beating so fast right now," Finneas said. "This award belongs to my sister Billie for her trust and vision."

A number of acts won two awards in the pre-telecast, including Lizzo, Lil Nas X and Cyrus, Anderson .Paak, Lady Gaga, Tucker, Kirk Franklin and Jacob Collier. And Beyoncé, the most nominated woman in the history of the Grammys, won her 24th award.

Nipsey Hussle, who was honored during the live telecast, posthumously won best rap performance for "Racks in the Middle," which features Roddy Ricch and Hit-Boy.

Hussle's family, including his brother, grandmother and actress-fiancée Lauren London, accepted the honor during the pre-telecast.

"Nip did it, not just for the awards, but for the people," London said onstage.

Hussle was nominated for two other awards: He lost best rap song to J. Cole and 21 Savage. The third award will be presented during the live show, where Hussle will be honored with a tribute performance from DJ Khaled, John Legend, Meek Mill and others.

New stars like Lizzo, Eilish and Lil Nas X—the most-nominated acts Sunday—won their first Grammys of their careers and have chance to win more, though a cloud loomed over this year's awards.

Ten days before arguably the biggest night in music, the industry erupted when the Recording Academy announced it had put its recently hired CEO, Deborah Dugan, on administrative leave for misconduct. Dugan and her lawyers fired back at the academy, claiming that the awards show is rigged.

Tarriona "Tank" Ball of the New Orleans

soul-funk band Tank and the Bangas, nominated for best new artist, said she's not letting the drama ruin the achievement for her band.

"I feel like I'm exactly where I'm supposed to be at, and I don't want anything taking away from all the nominees," Ball said. "This is our moment. This is our time."

Sunday's Grammys have been jam-packed with performances including Ariana Grande, Camila Cabello, Demi Lovato, Jonas Brothers and Rosalía.

The show will also included a special tribute to Prince and will have another one to longtime Grammys producer Ken Ehrlich, who is wrapping up his career with the show Sunday.

Lizzo, who walked into the show the most nominated with eight, is nominated for album of the year for her major-label debut, "Cuz I Love You." Other nominees include Grande, Lana Del Rey, Vampire Weekend, H.E.R., Bon Iver, Eilish and Lil Nas X.

Diddy calls out Grammys and demands change in fiery speech

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Sean “Diddy” Combs called out the Grammy Awards for dissing rap and R&B stars in its major categories in a blazing speech that earned him a standing ovation from Beyoncé, Jay-Z and several other music industry players.

At the end of his 50-minute speech Saturday night at Clive Davis’ white-hot pre-Grammys gala, where Combs was honored, the music mogul demanded change and said he was happy to be involved in making

a difference.

“So I say this with love to the Grammys, because you really need to know this, every year y’all be killing us man. Man, I’m talking about the pain. I’m speaking for all these artists here, the producers, the executives,” he said. “The amount of time it takes to make these records, to pour your heart into it, and you just want an even playing field.”

Over the years, the awards show has been criticized when top performing acts like Beyoncé, Kanye West,

Eminem, Mariah Carey and others lose in major categories, including album of the year and best new artist. The rap and R&B stars often fall short of their pop, rock and country counterparts.

“In the great words of Erykah Badu, ‘We are artists and we are sensitive about our (expletive).’ We are passionate. For most of us, this is all we got. This is our only hope,” Combs continued. “Truth be told, hip-hop has never been respected by the Grammys. Black music has never been respected by the

Grammys to the point that it should be.”

Rap, particularly, has had a longstanding losing streak at the Grammys, which celebrates its 62nd show Sunday. Only two rap-based albums—Lauryn Hill’s “The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill” and Outkast’s “Speakerboxxx/The Love Below”—have won album of the year. Last year’s Grammys marked the first time a hip-hop song was awarded song and record of the year when Childish Gambino’s “This Is America” achieved the feat. And only four rap acts have been named best new artist, including Hill, Arrested Development, Chance the Rapper and Macklemore & Ryan Lewis.

Questions loomed heavily over the Grammys’ voting process this week after the academy’s just-ousted CEO, Deborah Dugan, claimed that the awards are rigged and filled with conflicts of interest.

“So right now with this current situation, it’s not a revelation. This thing been going on, and it’s not just going on in music, it’s going on in film, it’s going on in sports, it’s going around the word,” Combs said. “And for years we’ve allowed institutions that have never had our best interest at heart to judge us. And that stops right now.”

The 50-year-old ended with a stern message: “I’m officially starting the clock—y’all got 365 days to get this (expletive) together.”

Combs, a three-time Grammy winner, earned the 2020 Grammy Salute to Industry Icons Award on Saturday night. He dedicated the prize to classic albums that didn’t win the top Grammy Award: Michael Jackson’s “Off the Wall,” Prince’s “1999,” Beyoncé’s “Lemonade,” Missy Elliott’s “Da Real World,” Snoop Dogg’s “Doggystyle,” Kanye West’s “Graduation” and Nas’ “Illmatic.”

Combs, the founder of Bad Boy Records, received an all-star tribute from artists he’s worked with, including Lil Kim, Mase, Faith Evans and Carl Thomas. The performance transformed the Beverly Hilton Hotel into a hip-hop jam session, with some people even dancing on top of chairs, including Usher, Wiz Khalifa and Combs himself.

Davis’ annual gala, a not-so-easy event to get invited to, was jam-packed with well-known guests from a range of fields, including Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, Michael Douglas, Naomi Campbell, Cardi B, Berry Gordy, Her-

bie Hancock, Quincy Jones, Joni Mitchell, DJ Khaled, Smokey Robinson, Ozzy and Sharon Osbourne, Trevor Noah, Billy Porter and Wolfgang Puck.

Beck kicked off the multi-hour event with an energetic performance; others who hit the stage included Carlos Santana, Chance the Rapper, John Legend, Khalid and Cynthia Erivo, who sang Janet Jackson songs in tribute to the performer.

Jackson, who didn’t receive an award but was honored for her musical achievements, said she’s happy to still have a career in music.

“When I was getting dress this evening I thought about it and I said to myself, ‘I’ve been in this industry for 47 years,’” the 53-year-old said. “That’s a long time but I still

enjoy going to work and I feel very blessed my journey ahead of me.”

Though Cyndi Lauper wasn’t honored Saturday, she also owned the show with an explosive performance of her classic hit song, “Girls Just Want to Have Fun,” alongside singer-songwriter Brandi Carlile. She took off her shoes, leaving the stage to sit on top of a table where Jamie Foxx, Usher and others were sitting.

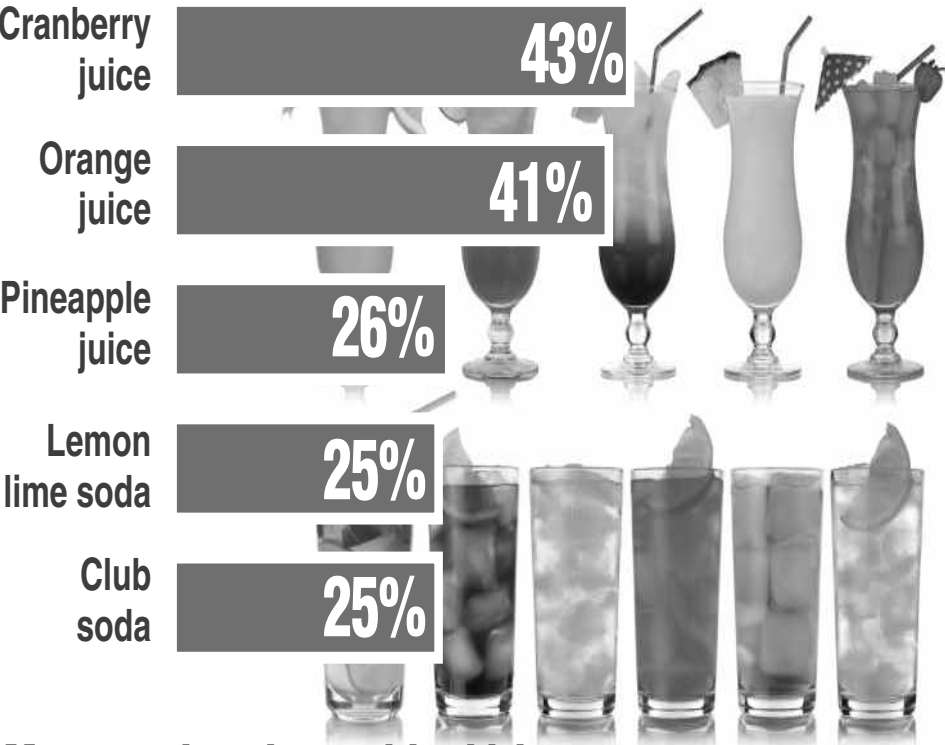
“Wait, stop, you’re (expletive) dead,” Lauper told the crowd in the middle of her performance. “You’re in the music industry. Where the (expletive) is your lungs?”

She won over the crowd, which fully participated by dancing out of their seats, singing along and—yep—having fun.

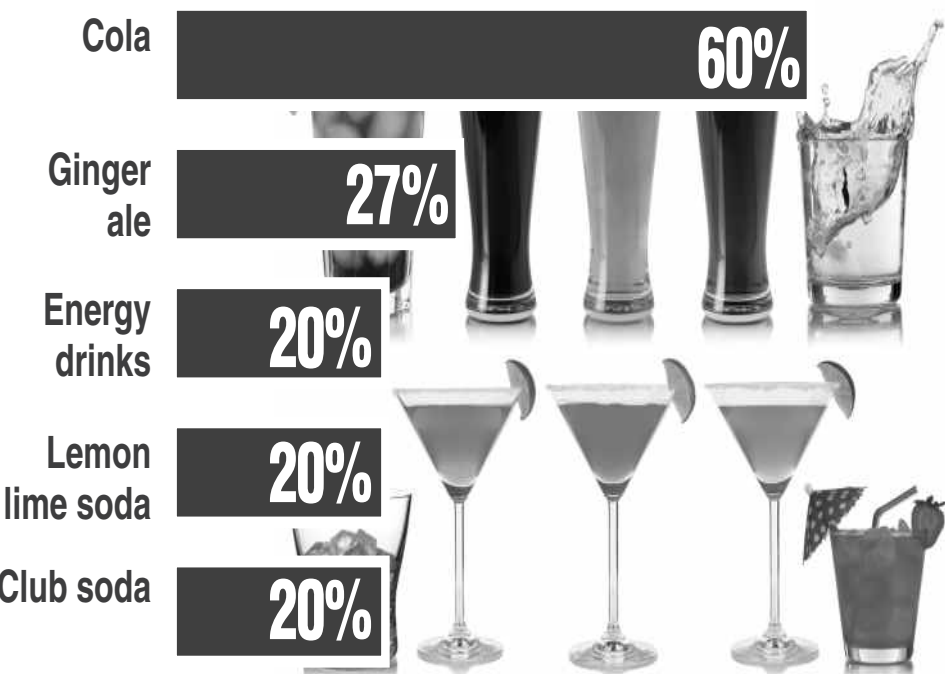
Stock up on mixers

Super Bowl approaches, it's time to start filling the shelf with mixers. Different spirits demand different mixers, ranging from fruit juice to energy drinks.

Most popular mixers with non-flavored vodka



Most popular mixers with whiskey



Source: Nielsen
Graphic: Staff, TNS

Music mainstays and newcomers speak out on Grammy inclusion

NEW YORK (AP)—Drama over fairness and inclusion at the Grammy Awards carried over to music’s big night Sunday as newcomers and mainstays in the industry supported Sean “Diddy” Combs and his powerful speech putting the Recording Academy on a clock to fix the nomination process when it comes to rap and R&B in major categories.

“I think if they smart, they listen to Diddy,” soulful singer Lucky Daye told The Associated Press on the red carpet.

British rapper Labrinth added: “Hopefully there’s a conversation to really think about what’s happened.”

Just days ago, the academy’s just-ousted CEO Deborah Dugan claimed that the awards are rigged and filled with conflicts of interest. At the Clive Davis gala Saturday night, Combs—who was honored—spoke for 50 fiery minutes, saying in part:

“So I say this with love to the Grammys, because you really need to know this, every year y’all be killing us man. Man, I’m talking about the pain. I’m speaking for all these artists here, the producers, the executives. The amount of time it takes to make these records, to pour your heart into it, and you just want an even playing field.”

Legend Smokey Robinson had words of support for Combs, his friend, but he said he wasn’t surprised about the Grammy criticism.

“Diddy could actually be a politician. I thought this speech

was powerful. It touched on a lot of things people were afraid to say,” he said.

Of Dugan calling out manipulation of the nomination process, he said, “It’s not like it’s news. We’ve known it all along. It’s just coming to the forefront. All that is hidden will come to light.”

Bluesman Keb’ Mo’, who has served on academy boards over the years, said his experiences on the inside have been “nothing but integrity.” He added: “Nothing’s perfect, but my experience is the Grammys trying to maintain integrity and the artistic process.”

Others said Combs’ words and support will hopefully go a long way.

“I believe that, you know, sometimes there’s always a tweaking that can be done. ... I think sometimes you may have to just revisit the process,” said gospel artist Tasha Cobbs Leonard. “I have hope that’s what’s happening now in every category.”

The Grammys have been criticized over the years when Beyoncé, Kanye West, Eminem, Mariah Carey and other top stars have lost in major categories, including album of the year and best new artist. The rap and R&B stars often fall short of their pop, rock and country counterparts.

Boys Noize, along with Skrillex and Ty Dolla \$ign, also supported the cause on the red carpet.

“Everybody should be here. More black, more female,” Boys Noize said.

Ty Dolla \$ign added: “The people will rise for sure.”

PARK CITY, Utah (AP) — “Boys” trumped “Gentlemen” in movie theaters over the weekend as Will Smith and Martin Lawrence’s “Bad Boys for Life” easily remained the top ticket seller over newcomer “The Gentlemen.”

The third “Bad Boys” film, coming 17 years after “Bad Boys II,” sold \$34 million in tickets in its second weekend, according to studio estimates Sunday. The R-rated action comedy from Sony Pictures, which cost about \$90 million to make, has grossed \$120.6 million in two weeks domestically.

Second place went to Sam Mendes’ “1917,” which added theaters in its fifth week of release to keep pace with its

‘Sesame Street’ comforts children displaced by the Syrian civil war

NEW YORK (AP) — “Sesame Street” in the past year has tackled everything from foster care to substance abuse. Now its latest effort is trying to help children suffering as a result of the Syrian civil war.

Sesame Workshop—the nonprofit, educational organization behind “Sesame Street”—has launched a new, locally produced Arabic TV program for the hundreds of thousands of children dealing with displacement in Syria, Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon.

“The thing that became very apparent in our work on the ground is how critical the need was for the children of this region and children who have been affected by traumatic events to have the social and emotional skills they need,” said Sherrie Westin, president of Social Impact & Philanthropy at Sesame Workshop.

Called “Ahlan Simsim,” which means “Welcome Sesame” in Arabic, the show will feature Elmo, Cookie Monster and Grover, as well as two brand new Muppets—the boy monster Jad, who had to leave

Academy Awards momentum. The film grossed \$15.8 million over the weekend to bring its North American total to \$103.9 million. Worldwide, it’s taken in \$200.5 million.

It was a good weekend for “1917.” On Saturday night, Mendes took the top prize at the Directors Guild Awards, solidifying the World War I tale as the clear Oscar front-runner and Mendes as the favorite for best director. The film earlier triumphed at the highly predictive Producers Guild Awards. And its venerated cinematographer, Roger Deakins, also won the American Society of Cinematographers award on Saturday.

The weekend’s top new release was Guy Ritchie’s star-

his home, and Basma, a purple girl monster who befriends the young stranger. An adorable goat named Ma’zooza adds comic relief.

Each 26-minute show will explore emotions experienced by all kids but particularly relevant to those dealing with trauma and will offer coping skills for feelings like anger, fear, frustration, nervousness and loneliness. In one episode, Basma shares her toys with Jad, since he left his behind. Some of the strategies include belly breathing and expression through art.

A variety show in the second half of each episode offers creators the chance to bring in local celebrities and attract an adult audience to hammer home the message. “The humor has to be there always, which is the ‘Sesame’ spirit,” said Khaled Haddad, an executive producer.

“Ahlan Simsim” will premiere Feb. 2 on MBC3, a pan-Arab satellite network that reaches 20 countries in North Africa, the Gulf and the Levant, as well as YouTube and national broadcasters across the region.

‘Bad Boys,’ ‘1917’ best ‘The Gentleman’ at box office

studded gangster film “The Gentlemen.” The STXfilms release came in on the high side of expectations with \$11 million in ticket sales. The film, a return to the criminal underworld for Ritchie (“Aladdin,” “Lock Stock and Two Smoking Barrels”), stars Matthew McConaughey as a American expat with a London marijuana empire under

threat. Reviews were fairly strong for “The Gentlemen” (72% fresh on Rotten Tomatoes) though many critics saw traces of racism in the film’s depictions.

The Universal horror film “The Turning,” a modern adaptation of Henry James’ “The Turn of the Screw” that drew terrible reviews, collected \$7.3 million in its debut weekend.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S.

and Canadian theaters, according to Comscore.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. “Bad Boys for Life,” \$34 million. | 6. “The Turning,” \$7.3 million. |
| 2. “1917,” \$15.8 million. | 7. “Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker,” \$5.2 million. |
| 3. “Dolittle,” \$12.5 million. | 8. “Little Women,” \$4.7 million. |
| 4. “The Gentlemen,” \$11 million. | 9. “Just Mercy,” \$4.1 million. |
| 5. “Jumanji: The Next Level,” \$7.9 million. | 10. “Knives Out,” \$3.7 million. |

Grammys honor Nipsey Hussle with a soaring performance

NEW YORK (AP)—John Legend, Meek Mill, DJ Khaled and a host of musicians paid tribute to Nipsey Hussle at the Grammy Awards, filling the vast stage with a soaring performance of his music.

The tribute kicked off with Mill performing a new song called “Letter to Nipsey,” which mentioned a letter President Barack Obama wrote in Hussle’s honor. “When we lost you, it really put some pain on me,” Mill rapped. “Real hitters never die.”

Then DJ Khaled and Legend sang their collaboration with Hussle, DJ Khaled’s track “Higher,” which later won the Grammy for best rap/sung performance. Legend sang while playing the piano as a choir sang along with them. Other performers including Kirk Franklin, Roddy Ricch and YG, each took turns doing solos.

Hussle was killed outside of his South Los Angeles clothing store in March 2019. Sunday’s performance featured musicians, background dancers and Legend wearing traditional Ethiopian and Eritrean clothing in honor of Hussle’s African roots.

The tributes to Hussle were



Kirk Franklin, left, and DJ Khaled perform during a tribute in honor of the late Nipsey Hussle at the 62nd annual Grammy Awards on Sunday, Jan. 26, 2020, in Los Angeles. AP

made even more poignant by the loss earlier in the day by another icon of Los Angeles—basketball superstar Kobe Bryant.

“Rest in peace, Nipsey Hussle,” DJ Khaled said at the end of the performance. Hussle’s image was beamed onto the back of the stage, beside one of Bryant. “Rest in peace, Kobe Bryant,” DJ

Khaled said.

Hussle received praise for being a skilled rapper and also for being an activist who tried to unite and build up his community. Ava DuVernay introduced the Grammy performance by saying Hussle “made brave, brilliant strides in his community.”

Earlier, before the telecast, Hussle became a Grammy

Award winner the first time. He won best rap performance for his track “Racks in the Middle,” a collaboration featuring Roddy Ricch and Hit-Boy. Lauren London, Hussle’s partner and the mother of his child, accepted the award with several members of Hussle’s family, including his grandmother. “Higher” then made him a double posthumous winner.

Daughter wishes stepfather would visit mom more often

DEAR ABBY: My mother is in a locked ward of a nursing home because she has Alzheimer’s and is a flight risk. My stepfather has begun dating her best friend. He doesn’t consider it dating because, at 85, he’s no longer capable of having a physical relationship. However, taking someone to dinner, the theater, church or to a movie constitutes a date to me. People in our small town are talking. I don’t care about that. It’s not their business.

I don’t begrudge my stepfather and his lady their relationship, but he no longer visits Mom as often as he used to. He looks for any excuse not to. An example: He will say he doesn’t want to drive in the rain, then drive in a downpour to go on a date with “The Other Woman.” He says Mom forgets he was there five minutes after he leaves, which, unfortunately, is true. But she lights up when she sees him, and it gives her a moment of joy to visit with him. She knows he’s her husband, and the last time we had a family visit, she snuggled up to him and said, “I love you.”

Am I wrong to think my stepfather is not fulfilling his vows by neglecting his wife of 25 years? I truly do not mind that he’s lonely and dating, but I feel he should balance his time between the two women in his life.

FAIR-MINDED IN TEXAS

DEAR FAIR-MINDED: You say you don’t begrudge your stepfather having a social life, and yet you call what he’s doing neglect. Whether your mother is aware of the fact that he’s spending time away from her is debatable. I assume she’s receiving excellent care, and that both of you check to ensure it.

Quite frankly, what I think about this is irrelevant. The person with whom you should discuss this is your stepfather. Unless you have walked a mile in his shoes, I do not think you should judge him.

DEAR ABBY: I love my brother, but my sister-in-law, “Daisy,” drives me crazy. Luckily, they live in another state.

I want to see my brother, but getting together always involves his wife. When they travel to see us, they stay for about a week. All Daisy wants to do when they are here is shop. My husband and brother have no interest in going, so it’s just the two of us.

My problem is, whatever I buy, she buys the same thing. Or, if she sees me wear something she likes, she looks for the same thing to buy. She thinks it’s OK because they live in a different state. Daisy does this with her other sister-in-law, too, and they live in the same city. We’re both fed up. What should we do?

COPIED IN FLORIDA

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



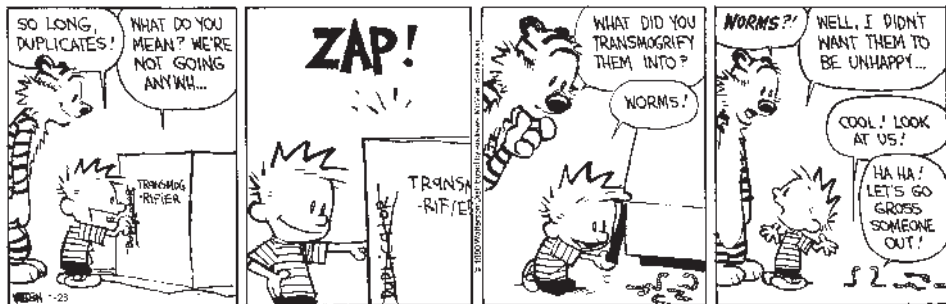
DEAR COPIED: It is said that imitation is the sincerest form of flattery. Daisy may be insecure about her own fashion choices, which is why she copies yours. Because this bothers you to the degree that it does, the direct way to deal with it would be to tell Daisy it makes you feel encroached upon. Either that or, when you take her shopping, tell her you are going along only to keep her company while SHE shops, and keep your wallet in your purse.

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in “The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It.” To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



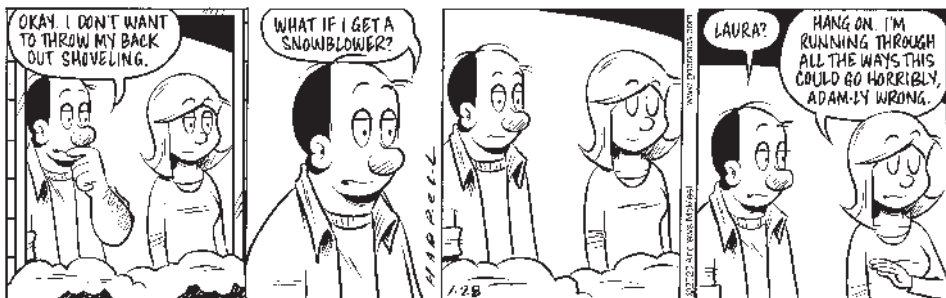
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



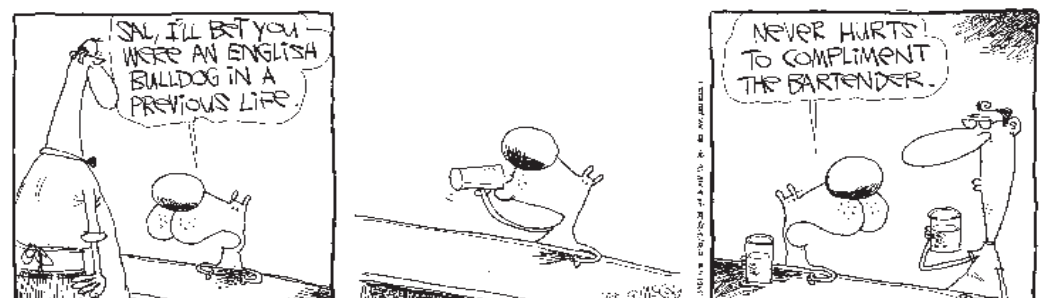
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Schnozz
5 NBC weekend show
8 "Toodledo!"
12 Mideast gulf
13 Green prefix
14 Utah city
15 Peruse
16 Tragedy
18 Flockhart of "Ally McBeal"
20 Walks in water
21 Refusals
22 Soup cooker
23 Banners
26 Heat unit
30 Animation frame
31 Opposing vote
32 Altar affirmative
33 Actor Rory
36 Shiny lip application
38 Actor McKellen
39 Avril follower

DOWN

40 Pesky crawler
43 Folded food on a pizzeria menu
47 Math course
49 Eager
50 Aleutian island
51 Olympic skater
52 Nevada city
53 Boutique
54 Sawbuck
55 Apothecary measure
1 DEB agent
2 Classic theaters
3 Barking critter
4 Conclusion
5 Factions
6 March Madness gp.
7 Texter's chuckle
8 Heckler's weapon
9 Bone-dry
10 Head, to Henri
11 Adams and Poehler
17 MP's quarry
19 "Mayday!"
22 Salary
23 TV watchdog org.
24 Meadow
25 The whole enchilada
26 Beer container
27 2016 Olympics city
28 Check-cashing needs
29 Dawn goddess
31 Convent head
34 Minor setback
35 Pearl Harbor site
36 Cowboy's sweetie
37 Iguana, for one
39 Brick worker
40 Some HDTVs
41 Swear word
42 Choir voice
43 Just adorable
44 Done with
45 1492 vessel
46 Ancient Dead Sea land
48 Set afire

Solution time: 22 mins.

W	A	A	M	W	E	T	I	S	I	S
A	L	V	A	E	A	R	N	U	T	S
L	I	E	N	S	T	O	O	K	P	O
L	A	R	I	A	T	T	A	P	E	R
A	B	A	P	E	R					
B	L	O	C	K	A	G	E	N	E	E
B	O	P	A	N	I	C	E	G	A	S
C	O	N	K	N	O	O	K	O	U	T
N	I	T	C	L	O	P				
C	E	S	T	O	N	D	E	C	K	
S	H	O	C	K	I	N	G	S	U	D
N	O	N	E	R	C	I	T	I	M	E
C	O	S	S	E	I	C	Y	E	L	O

Yesterday's answer 1-28

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Ariel Winter, 22; Elijah Wood, 39; Sarah McLachlan, 52; Frank Darabont, 61.

Happy Birthday: Take a deep breath, and pull yourself together. Stay ahead of any competition you meet by being fully prepared. Don't lose sight of your objective. You will reach your destination, regardless of the obstacles you encounter along the way. Persistence will be necessary if you want to stay in control. Caution should be maintained this year. Your numbers are 3, 17, 20, 26, 38, 42, 47.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Speed things up if you think it will help, but don't take shortcuts. Someone will deceive you regarding a rule or regulation you should be aware of before you commit to a project or proposal. Practice moderation. ★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Take a step back if uncertainty prevails. Go over details, dissect opportunities and make decisions based on what you discover. Observation and intuitive insight will help you make the best decision. Refuse to let someone push you one way or another. ★★★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Speak up, do your own thing and don't trust anyone who is hovering over you or being too complimentary. You'll be disappointed if you leave essential details in someone else's hands. Take control, and speak your mind. ★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): How you handle the people you work alongside will make a difference. If you are generous with your compliments, offer solid sugges-

tions and put in extra and unexpected details, you will surpass your expectations. Romance is in the stars. ★★★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Question everyone and everything. Gather facts, and put in the energy required to go the extra mile. How you handle situations, people and projects will make a difference. An unexpected change will put you on the spot. Don't wait; act quickly. ★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Interact with people who have something interesting to offer. Someone you encounter will spark your interest and prompt you to make changes to the way you live or do things. Romance is in the stars and will improve your life. ★★★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Think before you act. A misleading situation, coupled with someone hustling you, will push you in a direction you shouldn't head. Be aware of the changes taking place around you, and consider if you want to be a part of what's going on. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You'll get a different perspective on life, where you want to go next and how you see yourself spending the next chapter of your life. If you're going to find peace and happiness, live your dream, not someone else's. Spiritual growth is encouraged. ★★★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Make decisions that fit into your schedule, and consider your plans. If you let someone tempt you with something that sounds too good to be valid, you will be disappointed in the outcome. Refuse to let anyone

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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take advantage of you. ★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Go over your papers, money matters and any health and physical concerns you might have. A positive change should include a healthier lifestyle. Let what's happened help you choose a better future. ★★★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Follow through with your plans, regardless of what others do or say. Consider your options if boredom is troubling you. Look at ways to diversify, and you will find something that makes you feel excited and alive. ★★★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Stay calm, approach situations with caution and be responsible for your actions. You'll have to make decisions that can lead to trouble or a truce. Play fair, do your best and stand up for those who can't. ★★★★★

Birthday Baby: You are competitive, disciplined and resourceful. You are confident and original.

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

		5		9	3					
	2			5	4	9				
9				1			6	5		
				7			8	3		
		6			7					
4	1			5						
6	7			4					1	
	4	3	9				7			
		8	7		2					

Difficulty Level ★★

1/28

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

1	3	7	8	9	6	5	4	2
8	4	2	3	5	7	1	6	9
5	9	6	1	2	4	8	7	3
7	8	9	5	3	1	6	2	4
2	6	5	4	7	8	3	9	1
4	1	3	2	6	9	7	8	5
6	5	4	9	8	3	2	1	7
9	2	8	7	1	5	4	3	6
3	7	1	6	4	2	9	5	8

Not Truly Level A

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

MOUNTAIN CLIMBING EQUIPMENT

Solution: 6 letters

B	A	V	A	L	C	A	L	A	B	S	B	L	U	B
R	L	P	E	T	Z	L	S	S	E	N	R	A	H	O
A	L	A	H	T	H	E	D	C	E	L	L	P	S	O
N	O	T	C	E	L	R	O	F	O	K	M	A	T	
D	Y	A	R	K	A	L	I	C	A	A	S	M	E	S
S	S	G	A	C	D	N	K	E	L	E	C	S	L	S
R	T	O	E	A	K	I	P	D	H	L	W	I	E	E
E	E	N	S	J	N	A	A	C	I	E	N	I	G	O
Y	E	I	E	G	T	E	T	M	R	G	R	C	G	T
A	L	A	R	T	H	A	B	C	O	E	B	E	I	S
L	F	A	C	E	M	A	S	K	T	N	O	A	N	E
E	Q	U	I	P	M	E	N	T	M	E	D	X	G	V
S	D	R	E	N	I	B	A	R	A	C	Y	E	S	O
A	T	E	C	A	R	B	D	O	W	N	F	I	L	L
B	O	R	E	O	U	T	D	O	O	R	O	P	E	G

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1/28

Alloy Steel, Balalaika, Base Layers, Batteries, Black Diamond, Body, Boots, Boreo, Brace, Brands, Bulbs, Garabiner, Cards, Cell, Climb, Cold, Down Fill, Duct Tape, Equipment, Face Mask, Gloves, Harness, Headlamp, Ice Axe, Jacket, Knife, Leash, Leggings, Locking, Map, Matches, Outdoor, Patagonia, Peak, Petzl, Research, Rope, Screws, Sling, Toes

Yesterday's Answer: Roast Beef

To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 40, 42, and 44 through 58 order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

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SUBMISSION DATE: FEBRUARY 28, 2020 TIME: 09:30 A.M.

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/S/ JAMES A. ADA
SECRETARY OF DPW

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
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/s/ ALEXANDRO C. CASTRO
CHIEF JUSTICE

/s/ JOHN T. VILLAGOMEZ
JUDICIARY PROCUREMENT OFFICER

WHATZIT Solution: Mutiny on the Bounty

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Kobe's death leaves NBA players, others in shock



NEW YORK (AP)—Kobe Bryant authored some of his most memorable moments at Madison Square Garden and made himself a centerpiece of the Lakers-Celtics rivalry.

Bryant was remembered for that and so much more Sunday after the five-time NBA champion, his teenage daughter and seven others were killed in a helicopter crash.

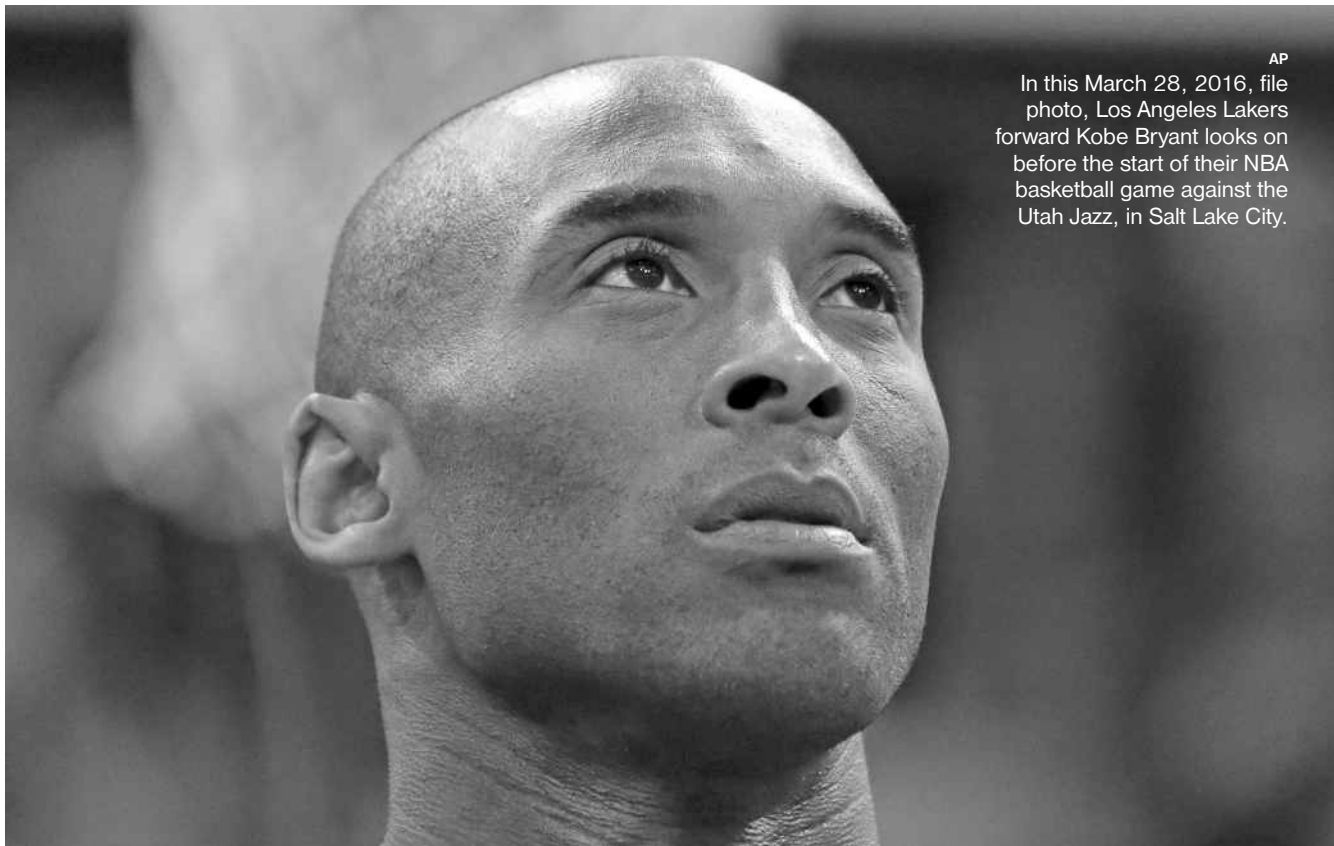
Tributes poured in from around the basketball, entertainment and political worlds. Players and teams who competed with and against Bryant struggled their way through the games that were scheduled, unable to summon his intense competitive spirit.

"We laughed and joked about the Mamba mentality. We're all going to need it right now," Clippers coach Doc Rivers said through tears before his team played in Orlando.

Madison Square Garden was lit up in the Lakers' gold and purple colors for the game between the New York Knicks and Brooklyn Nets. Nets star Kyrie Irving didn't play, leaving the arena after hearing of Bryant's death.

The 18-time All-Star made his first All-Star appearance at MSG in 1998, a passing of the torch game in which Michael Jordan played for the final time as a member of the Chicago Bulls. Bryant later set the scoring record at the current arena when he scored 61 points in 2009, a mark that was later bettered by Carmelo Anthony.

Bryant played twice against Rivers and the Celtics for the championship, with Boston winning in 2008 and the Lakers taking the 2010 title, when Bry-



AP
In this March 28, 2016, file photo, Los Angeles Lakers forward Kobe Bryant looks on before the start of their NBA basketball game against the Utah Jazz, in Salt Lake City.

ant captured his second consecutive NBA Finals MVP award.

"We always liked to reminisce. We would always laugh at our versions of our losses," Rivers said. "You know, when we beat them in 2008, he had his version. And when they beat us in 2010, I had my version, and then we would laugh at how different we looked at the games."

Pau Gasol, a former teammate of Bryant's during those series, tweeted, "Beyond devastated... my big brother... I can't, I just can't believe it."

The Lakers and Celtics already had the NBA's most famous rivalry, but it had been dormant since the heydays of Magic Johnson and Larry Bird before Bryant helped lead its resumption.

Johnson, just days after giving an emotional speech dur-

ing a memorial service for former NBA Commissioner David Stern, was devastated again after Bryant, 41, and 13-year-old daughter Gianna were among those killed in Southern California.

"As I try to write this post, my mind is racing," Johnson wrote on Twitter. "I'm in disbelief and have been crying all morning over this devastating news that Kobe and his young daughter, Gigi have passed away in a helicopter crash. Cookie and I are heartbroken."

Bryant also helped the U.S. win Olympic titles in 2008 and 2012, after the Americans had been shut out of gold medals in major international basketball competitions since 2000.

"He was in constant pursuit of doing something special and there will never be a greater warrior in our sport,"

said Mike Krzyzewski, who coached Bryant on those teams after trying to recruit him to Duke.

Players around the NBA honored Bryant by holding the ball for 24 seconds — one of his jersey numbers — for a 24-second shot clock violation at the start of games. Hawks All-Star guard Trae Young, who usually wears No. 11, wore Bryant's other number Sunday night, No. 8, before Atlanta's game against the Wizards. He changed back to his own number for the game.

In another tribute to the No. 24, soccer star Neymar held up two fingers on one hand and four on the other during a celebration after a goal.

Philadelphia 76ers center Joe Embiid said that he started playing basketball after watching Bryant in the 2010

NBA Finals.

"I had never watched ball before that and that finals was the turning point of my life," Embiid wrote on Twitter. "I WANTED TO BE LIKE KOBE. I'm so FREAKING SAD right now!!!!"

Tiger Woods was told of Kobe Bryant's passing by his caddie Joey LaCava coming off the 18th green at Torrey Pines on Sunday at the Farmer's Insurance Open.

"Joey just told me coming off 18th green," Woods told CBS. "I didn't understand why the people in the gallery were saying, 'Do it for Mamba.' But now I understand. It's a shocker to everyone. Unbelievably sad and one of the more tragic days."

And not only for fellow athletes. Bryant had been busy in the arts after retirement as a play-

er and quickly been successful.

"Kobe was a legend on the court and just getting started in what would have been just as meaningful a second act," former President Barack Obama tweeted. "To lose Gianna is even more heartbreaking to us as parents. Michelle and I send love and prayers to Vanessa and the entire Bryant family on an unthinkable day."

Former Lakers star Kareem Abdul-Jabbar tweeted that "Most people will remember Kobe as the magnificent athlete who inspired a whole generation of basketball players. But I will always remember him as a man who was much more than an athlete."

Syracuse University men's basketball coach Jim Boeheim previously worked with Bryant with Team USA.

"He was not only one of the greatest basketball players ever, he was also the hardest working player I've ever been around," Boeheim tweeted. "I was so fortunate to have known him and coached him with Team USA. Our thoughts and our prayers are with his wife, Vanessa, and the Bryant family."

Bryant's death reverberated beyond sports. In 2018, he won an Academy Award in the animated short film category.

Gavin Newsom, the governor of California, and First Partner Jennifer Siebel Newsom issued a statement regarding about Bryant that read:

"We mourn the tragic and untimely death of a California icon and basketball legend, Kobe Bryant. In his 20-year career with the Los Angeles Lakers, he made history with raw talent and unparalleled dedication that raised the bar and paved the way for a newer generation of players."

SAN ANTONIO—The Toronto Raptors and San Antonio Spurs did not want to be on the court after learning Kobe Bryant had died, but they tried to honor him as best they could.

The teams collaborated on a touching tribute to Bryant at the beginning of their game Sunday, with each team dribbling out the 24-second shot clock in remembrance of the No. 24 worn by the retired NBA great, who died in a helicopter crash at age 41.

Pascal Siakam scored 35 points to lead the Raptors past the Spurs 110-106 on a day when many players' thoughts were elsewhere.

"You think about his family and his friends and the situation they are going through," Toronto veteran Marc Gasol said. "You just want to go home and kiss your kids and your wife. The rest is irrelevant right now."

Teams, players offer tributes to Bryant

Bryant and his 13-year-old daughter, Gianna, were among the nine people killed when the helicopter they were riding in crashed in Calabasas, California. The teams found out about Bryant's death about an hour before the afternoon tipoff.

Pelicans 123, Celtics 108

In New Orleans, Zion Williamson had his first double-double as an NBA player, and the New Orleans Pelicans won for the first time with him in the lineup, 123-108 over the visiting Boston Celtics on Sunday.

Williamson, the top pick in the 2019 NBA draft, had 21 points and 11 rebounds in his third game after his debut following preseason knee surgery. Jrue Holiday scored a team-high 25 points, and Der-

rick Favors added 15 points and 10 rebounds. Lonzo Ball had a career-high 15 assists to go with eight points.

Before the singing of the national anthem, the Pelicans held a 24-second moment of silence in honor of Bryant

Grizzlies 114, Suns 109

In Memphis, Tenn., Ja Morant scored 14 of his 23 points in the fourth quarter to help Memphis hold off visiting Phoenix.

The Grizzlies won the opening tip and immediately took a 24-second clock violation. When the Suns took possession, they stayed in the backcourt for an 8-second violation — the 24 and 8 representing Bryant's two numbers during his NBA career.

Knicks 110, Nets 107

In New York, Julius Randle

had 22 points and 15 rebounds to lead New York past visiting Brooklyn, which played without Kyrie Irving

following the news of Kobe Bryant's death.

Marcus Morris added 21 points to help the Knicks earn a split of the season series.

Spencer Dinwiddie, back in the starting lineup with Irving out, scored 23 points for the Nets.

Hawks 152, Wizards 133

In Atlanta, Trae Young had 45 points and 14 assists in an emotional game for the first-time All-Star, helping Atlanta beat visiting Washington.

Young looked up toward the rafters several times to honor Kobe Bryant, his mentor and favorite NBA star. Young wore a No. 8 jersey

to acknowledge Bryant and dressed up his shoes with a heartfelt tribute.

Bradley Beal scored 40 points for Washington.

Clippers 112, Magic 97

In Orlando, Kawhi Leonard scored 15 of his 31 points in a big third quarter and Los Angeles won at Orlando.

Nuggets 117, Rockets 110

In Denver, Nikola Jokic had 24 points, 12 rebounds and 11 assists for his ninth triple-double of the season, and Jerami Grant scored a season-high 25 points in Denver's victory over visiting Houston.

Russell Westbrook scored 22 of his 32 points in the second half for Houston. James Harden sat out because of a bruised left thigh.

Trail Blazers 129, Pacers 139

In Portland, Ore., on a night when he set another franchise mark, Damian Lillard's thoughts weren't on his game.

They were on Kobe Bryant.

Lillard had 50 points and 13 assists, becoming the first Portland player with 40-plus points in three straight games, and the Trail Blazers beat the Indiana Pacers 139-129 on a Sunday marked by grief over the death of the NBA great.

The Trail Blazers honored Bryant with 24 seconds of silence before the game, and the team took a 24-second shot-clock violation at the start before the Pacers took an eight-second timeline penalty, recognizing Bryant's jersey numbers. Several fans at the Moda Center wore Lakers jerseys, saluting a player who spent his entire career with rival Los Angeles.

Wawrinka edges Medvedev at Australian Open

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—As the fourth-set tie-breaker ended, Stan Wawrinka tapped his right temple with his index finger, his signature celebration. He probably figured he had his Australian Open opponent right where he wanted him.

Heading to a fifth set.

Wawrinka came back to beat U.S. Open runner-up Daniil Medvedev 6-2, 2-6, 4-6, 7-6 (2), 6-2 Monday to reach the quarterfinals at Melbourne Park, where he won the 2014 championship.

This was Wawrinka's 51st career five-setter, which is tied for the sixth-most on record in men's tennis history, and his 29th such victory. The No. 4-seeded Medvedev, meanwhile? He is now 0-6 when going the distance.

Consider this a win for age and experience.

Wawrinka is 34, Medvedev 23. Wawrinka owns three Grand Slam titles in all and now is on his way to his 18th major quarterfinal. Medvedev's lone run to that stage at a Slam came at Flushing Meadows last September, before he ended up losing in the final against Rafael Nadal in—yep, you guessed it—five sets.

This one hinged on the conclusion of the fourth set, when Wawrinka came through by taking the last three points of the tiebreaker.

Medvedev

began to wilt right then, part of a portion of the match when

he ceded 12 of 13 points.

That stretch included a break in the final set's initial game when Medvedev sent a forehand long.

The 15th-seeded Wawrinka will meet No. 7 Alexander Zverev or No. 17 Andrey Rublev next. They were to play their fourth-round match Monday night.

The other quarterfinal on this half of the bracket will be two-time French Open runner-up Dominic Thiem against the winner of Monday's highly anticipated showdown between No. 1 Rafael Nadal and No. 23 Nick Kyrgios.

The men's quarterfinals Tuesday will be defending champion Novak Djokovic against No. 32 Milos Raonic of Canada, and Roger Federer against 100th-ranked Tennys Sandgren of the United States.

After beating No. 10 Gael Monfils 6-2, 6-4, 6-4 Monday—"Easy to say that it was by far the best" performance he's had in the tournament—Thiem said he planned to kick back and watch Nadal vs. Kyrgios on TV.

For scouting purposes, sure, but also for its expected enter-



AP
Switzerland's Stan Wawrinka reacts during his fourth round singles match against Russia's Daniil Medvedev at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia, Monday, Jan. 27, 2020.

tainment value.

After losing a second consecutive final at Roland Garros to Nadal in June, Thiem didn't win another match at a Grand Slam tournament in 2019, losing first-rounders at Wimbledon and the U.S. Open. But now he's into his first quarterfinal at Melbourne Park.

There was an Australian Open debut quarterfinalist on the women's side, too: No. 28 Anett Kontaveit of Estonia rallied from a set and a break down to beat 18-year-old Iga Swiatek of Poland 6-7 (4), 7-5, 7-5, despite being broken twice while serving for the match.

"Absolutely delighted that she found a way to get through. I mean, it wasn't the easiest to watch," said Kontaveit's coach, Nigel Sears. "A bit of an emotional roller-coaster. Certainly put me through the ringer today."

Kontaveit, who had been 0-3 in the fourth round at majors, next plays two-time major champion and 2018 Australian Open runner-up Simona Halep.

"Mentally," Halep said after her 6-4, 6-4 win over Elise Mertens, "I think I did a great job today."

Another two-time Grand Slam title winner advanced to the quarterfinals when Garbiñe Muguruza eliminated No. 9 seed Kiki Bertens 6-3, 6-3.

Muguruza won the 2016 French Open and 2017 Wimbledon. She is unseeded at a Grand Slam tournament for

the first time since the 2014 French Open.

Now she'll face either Angelique Kerber — the only

past champion in Melbourne remaining the women's field

— or Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova.

Players pay respects to Kobe Bryant at Australian Open

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—Nick Kyrgios wore a Lakers No. 8 jersey to honor Kobe Bryant ahead of a fourth-round match against Rafael Nadal at the Australian Open.

The 15-year-old Coco Gauff had Bryant's numbers 8 and 24, along with the inscription "Mamba Mentality," on her shoes in a doubles match at Melbourne Park.

Bryant's sudden death in a helicopter crash near Los Angeles on Sunday along with eight others, including his 13-year-old daughter, Gianna, has shocked and upset fans and athletes around the world.

Kyrgios, a big NBA fan who often wears basketball jerseys while practicing, wore a Bryant jersey from the locker room, through the corridor of champions, and into the warm-up on Rod Laver Arena. He took it off before play began against top-ranked Nadal.

Fans in the crowd wore Bryant jerseys with the numbers 8 or 24. Australian Open organizers also played a short video tribute to Bryant ahead of the match, one of the most anticipated encounters in the two-week, season-opening major. Darren Cahill, who coaches two-time major winner Simona Halep and works as television analyst for ESPN, said he "felt sick" when he woke up to news of Bryant's death.



AP
United States' Coco Gauff, right, and compatriot Caty McNally wear a tribute to Kobe Bryant on their shoes during their doubles match against Japan's Shuko Aoyama and Ena Shibahara at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia, Monday, Jan. 27, 2020.

"Certainly I looked up to what he used to do as an athlete, as a professional, an incredible basketball player," Cahill said. "And especially his daughter passing away, as well. I couldn't think of anything worse. My two kids are here. They are 18 and 15. I could not get my head around that."

Former Australian player and TV commentator Rennae Stubbs said she knew Bryant was a big tennis fan.

"We saw Kobe a lot at the U.S. Open"—he was there a lot last year," Stubbs said. "He was on the ESPN set many times. He commented half of Coco Gauff's

match with our team. We saw him around. I saw him talking to Serena after one match.

"A terrible day for sport. He's one of the great, great champions."

Gauff lost in the fourth round at the U.S. Open last year and beat defending Australian Open champion Naomi Osaka here before losing in the fourth round at Melbourne Park to fellow American Sofia Kenin.

She was still in contention in the doubles with another U.S. teenager, Caty McNally on Monday. Gauff and McNally both wrote inscriptions on their tennis

shoes for their match.

Other players were affected by the news.

"It was really tough this morning. You know, is the first thing, you know, when I woke up, bunch of messages. Definitely when I found out that, I was really, really sad, because it was someone that for sure I was looking up growing up and someone very special," 10th-seeded Gael Monfils said after his loss to Dominic Thiem. "To be honest with you, really devastated by that, because it means quite a lot for me. All my thoughts and prayers for his family."

49ers stingy pass D in for tough Super Bowl test vs. Mahomes

SANTA CLARA, Calif. (AP)—With a fearsome front four capable of pressuring quarterbacks without blitzes, a lockdown cornerback in Richard Sherman and the speed at linebacker and safety to limit big plays, the San Francisco 49ers had the league's stingiest pass defense in a decade.

Shutting down Patrick Mahomes and the Kansas City Chiefs' passing game in the Super Bowl will be a far tougher challenge than anything the Niners have faced this season.

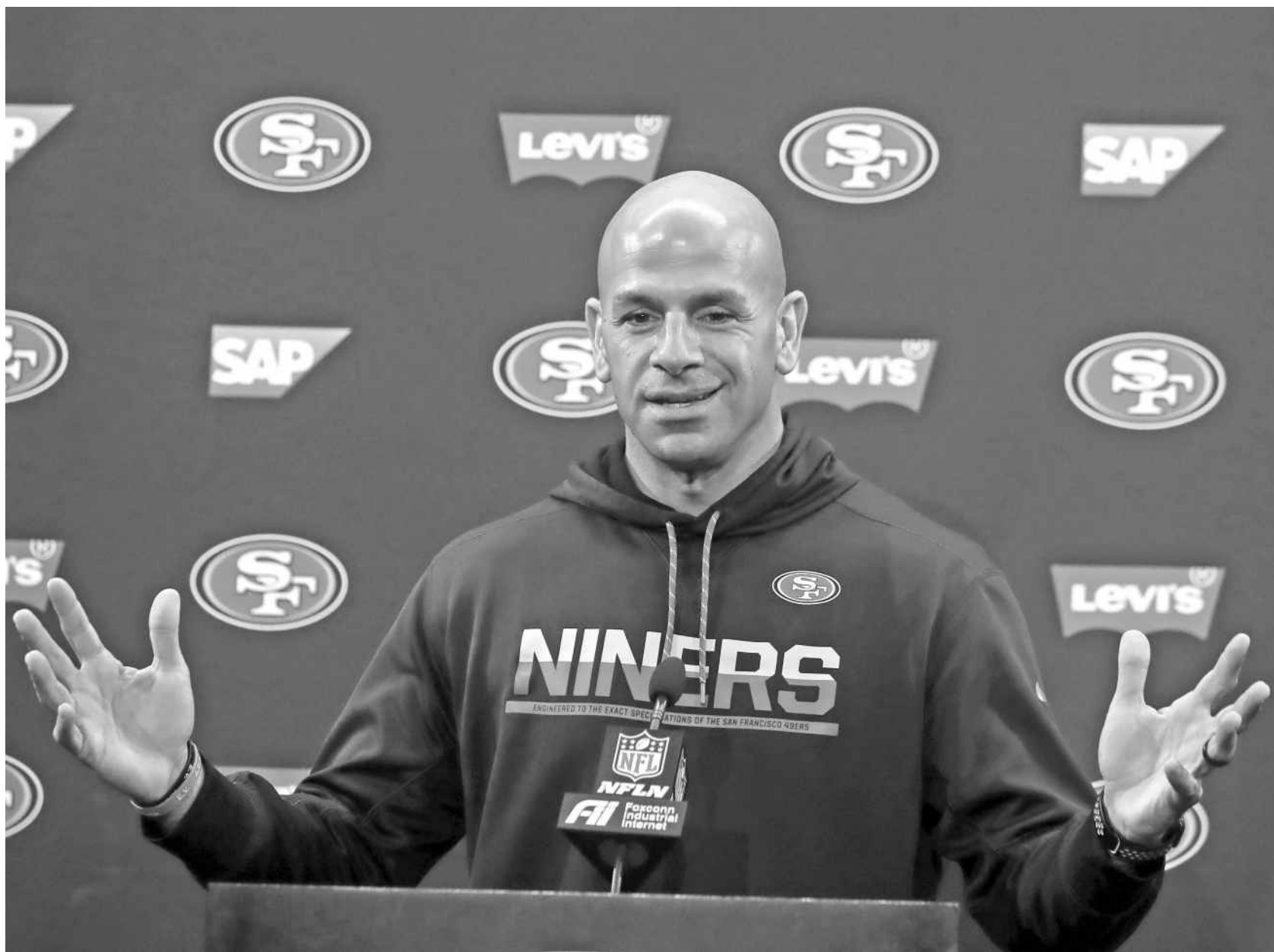
"His mobility is unique. His arm strength is ridiculous. He's very, very accurate," defensive coordinator Robert Saleh said. "But what I don't think people give him enough credit for is that he actually plays quarterback. There's a lot of people, there's a lot of quarterbacks in this league that will say no to number one and then it just becomes street ball. He gets rid of the ball on time. He puts it where it needs to be. He hits a lot of throws in rhythm. And when he needs to take his shot, he knows how to buy time in the pocket and do it. So he's a superstar in every way you can possibly imagine and he's going to be tough to deal with."

The 49ers had to deal with Mahomes already in his brief but brilliant career. Back in Week 3 of the 2018 season in Mahomes' first year as starter in Kansas City, he threw for 314 yards and three TDs and led touchdown drives on all five possessions in the first half of the Chiefs' 38-27 win.

That marked the only time in the past 20 seasons that the Niners allowed five straight TD drives to open a game. They had no answer for Mahomes' play-making ability.

In the rematch next Sunday in the Super Bowl in Miami, San Francisco should be better equipped at least to try to slow Mahomes down.

It added a dynamic edge



San Francisco 49ers defensive coordinator Robert Saleh speaks during a news conference at the team's NFL football training facility in Santa Clara, Calif., Thursday, Jan. 23, 2020. The 49ers will face the Kansas City Chiefs in Super Bowl 54.

rushing duo in the offseason, acquiring Dee Ford in a trade with the Chiefs and drafting Nick Bosa second overall. That led to the team allowing the fewest yards in a season since the 2009 New York Jets.

"When you have edge rushers it speeds up the process of the quarterback, and, not that he needs speeding up, he already gets rid of it pretty quick. But it changes the game," Saleh

said. "It unlocks the offensive line so it creates a little bit more space and it gives the guys inside more space to operate. So having those guys out there, having them at full speed, will do nothing but help."

Bosa and Ford transformed the entire defense as the added pressure helped San Francisco create more turnovers after having a record-low seven takeaways in 2018.



The Niners have 57 sacks including the playoffs, with Ford, Bosa, Arik Armstead and DeForest Buckner all recording at least 7 1/2, making it difficult for offenses to key on one spot.

"If we're covering and that guy takes two or three hitches most likely he'll be laying on his back," safety Jimmie Ward said. "But Patrick Mahomes is a mover in the pocket. I'm pretty sure he'll make some guys miss and he'll make some plays. We

just have to make more plays than he does."

San Francisco got a league-best 40 of those sacks without bringing in extra pass rushers, which will be especially important against Mahomes, who has 22 TD passes, zero interceptions and a 118.3 passer rating in his career when defenses rush five or more players.

But not getting pressure with four creates its own problems, giving Mahomes the extra times he needs to generate big plays downfield to speedsters like Tyreek Hill, Mecole Hardman and Sammy Watkins.

Mahomes leads the NFL with 76 completions the past two seasons on throws at least 20 yards downfield, an aspect San Francisco's defense is designed to stop.

It allowed the second fewest deep completions in the regular season, with only eight on 48 attempts, thanks in large part to Sherman's coverage skills and Ward's ability as a free safety to cover ground deep downfield.

"We believe in each other," Sherman said. "We believe in the scheme. We believe in what we've done all year, and we plan on going out there and putting a good product on tape

and seeing how it goes."

When San Francisco has struggled defensively this season it has often come against more mobile quarterbacks, with Kyler Murray, Russell Wilson and Lamar Jackson all having more success than QBs less apt to run like Aaron Rodgers and Kirk Cousins.

That's just another reason why Mahomes is so tough. He has scrambled 10 times this postseason for 112 yards, taking advantage of undisciplined rush lanes and defensive backs who drop too deep into coverage.

The quarterback who exploited that the most against the Niners this season was Wilson, who scrambled 12 times for 79 yards in two games, compared with just 20 scrambles for 82 yards against San Francisco in the other 16 games.

"Every week, whether you're playing a guy like Mahomes or a statue, it doesn't matter," Saleh said. "You have to have respect for where he is in the pocket. And your pass rush has to tie in with one another so that way you're just not carelessly rushing the passer to where even a statue can buy time and escape the pocket and create an explosive play through an off-schedule play. But that goes every single week."

Chiefs, 49ers arrive in Miami for Super Bowl week

MIAMI (AP)—Kansas City waited 50 years to get back to a Super Bowl. And then the Chiefs had to wait a few extra minutes once they got to Miami.

It took workers at Miami International Airport about three attempts to get one of the rolling staircases that the Chiefs would use to deplane properly lined up with the front door of their chartered jet. The delay was brief, and coach Andy Reid and the rest of the Chiefs' delegation to make their way into the hangar for the short walk to waiting buses.

A handful of local politi-

cians and officials were at the airport to greet the teams, as loud hip-hop music blared through the maintenance hangar that was being used for the arrivals.

No players or coaches spoke to reporters inside the hangar. The first media session for the Chiefs and the San Francisco 49ers — who arrived a couple hours after the Chiefs did on Sunday — is Monday night, when the NFL has Super Bowl Opening Night at Marlins Park.

Super Bowl 54 is next Sunday at Hard Rock Stadium in Miami Gardens.

Even as football enters

its biggest week, basketball was on the teams' minds. The teams both paid tribute Sunday on social media to Kobe Bryant, whose shocking death in a helicopter crash earlier Sunday reverberated around the world.

"A legend gone too soon," the 49ers wrote.

Added Chiefs defensive end Frank Clark, on Twitter: "I'm devastated, RIP to my idol, Bean, 8, 24, the Goat, the Black Mamba. Wow." And Chiefs cornerback Bashaud Breeland called it a "sad day in America."

A handful of volunteers greeted players, coaches and

staff as they made their way down the stairs. Everyone was handed a floral baseball cap, and many players held their phones out to shoot video of the moment they arrived at the Super Bowl.

A few of the 49ers danced once they deplaned, in time with the music coming from a nearby DJ. Even the flight attendants on the Chiefs' flight were celebrating the moment — they gathered at the top of the stairs for a group photo once their passengers deplaned, and then a few of them pulled out their phones for some pictures of players as well.

IT&E, Blue Haus continue winning in masters

By **MARK RABAGO**
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

League-leading Blue Haus and IT&E continued their winning ways in the masters division of the United Filipino Organization IT&E 2019 Basketball



League last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. Blue Haus remained perfect by notching win No. 7 at the expense of Saimor Pilot, 111-77, in the second 40-and-over game of the evening.

The fireworks on Chinese New Year were provided by Ehrol Peredo and Junar Guiab right from the get-go as the dynamic duo torched Saimor Pilot with 25 combined points and Blue Haus zoomed to a 28-20 spread after the first canto.

Peredo would fire 10 more points in the second and with point guard Elmer Esdreton and Bruce Berline

adding some muscle, Blue Haus opened a 58-34 lead at the half.

Blue Haus continued to lord it over against an also-ran Saimor Pilot in the third, as Peredo and company didn't let their opponents off the hook and took a 75-57 advantage heading into the fourth and final quarter.

It was Peredo's older brother Richard's turn to score in bunches in the payoff period, as the shooting guard lit up Saimor Pilot with 13 of his total 21 points to all but seal the deal for Blue Haus.

Ehrol was named player of the game with his 32 points, while Richard ably backed him up with the aforementioned 21 markers of his own. Saimor Pilot, which dropped to a 4-2 win-loss record, was paced by the 20 markers of Melvin Villarin and the 16 of Edong Echavez.

In the earlier masters game



MARK RABAGO

IT&E's Sonny Lerio is fouled by two Gilas Batang players on the way to the basket during their masters game in the United Filipino Organization IT&E 2019 Basketball League last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

SAIPAN

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Duenas

in my books is second to MJ! I grew up watching Kobe and I like to say that he is my idol! Kobe you will never be forgotten!

—**Matthew Duenas**
Shirley's Coffee Shop player



Ada

"Feel horrible for their family not only losing a husband and a father but a sister/daughter. Doing grocery shopping now and everyone in Hawaii seems to be talking about it. Random people in the elevator and store clerks all saying 'hey bro, you hear about Kobe...' very sad."

—**Oscar Ada**
Former CNMI national basketball player



Rivera

Waking up to this tragic news I was so shocked. Very sad I was hoping it was fake news. As a Celtics fan he was a top opponent you always look forward to watching. As sports fan and NBA fanatic in general, my heart is simply broken today a day after the NBA world and Lakeland celebrated Lebron's passing Kobe at third in the all-time scoring list. Sad, sad

day for all of the sports world.

—**Charlie Rivera**
NMPASI board member

"Kobe revolutionized the game of basketball with his offensive skill set and his legendary Mamba Mentality. He was the reason why I wore the No. 8 back in high school when I played for Mount Carmel. He was the reason why I love the game of basketball because he treated it more than just a game. By his sheer example alone, he taught me about work ethic, perseverance, and greatness in one's craft and how applicable those three values are in life. My favorite memories of him include Game 7 of the 2010 NBA Finals, when he won his fifth and final championship in LA against the Celtics and his final game, where he scored 60 points in another one of his trademark clutch performances—the perfect ending to an amazing career. I just wished I could have heard his Hall of Fame speech to gain some additional inspiration about basketball and on life. The impact he had on me and on the sports world is profound and will be forever remembered."

—**Kevin Bautista**
Governor's Office spokesperson

Speechless... Unreal! The tragic news just doesn't want to sink in yet... it's such a shock! I wouldn't have believed it until I watched it on CNN today.

—**Mike Babauta**
Saipan World Resort Sales & Marketing manager



Zapata

—**Freddie Pelisamen**
Former C N M I basketball player

between IT&E and Gilas Batang, the former extricated itself from a tight first half to beat Gilas Batang, 79-63.

IT&E only took the first period by 4 points and the half by 8 before leaving Gilas Batang in a cloud of dust in the second half. The team's resurgence was led by Dexter Tenorio and Sonny Lerio as the two swingmen scored at will in the third canto to give IT&E a more comfortable 56-30 tally entering the final 10 minutes of the contest.

George Masga then put on the finishing touches on IT&E's dominant victory over Gilas Batang as the center pumped in 8 points in the fourth quarter. It was second straight win and the fourth in six outings for IT&E.

John Jugos again put up big numbers in the loss for Gilas Batang with 25 points. It was the fourth setback against two victories for Gilas Batang.

IT&E 79 – Masga 21, Lerio 20, Tenorio 17, Joyner 12, Pineda 4, Zapata 2, Poquiz 2.

Gilas Batang 63 – Jugos 25, Tibayan 17, Wijango 7, Tibayan 5, Basa 4, De Jesus 2.

Scoring by quarters: 19-15, 38-30, 56-30, 79-63.

Blue Haus 111 – E. Peredo 32, R. Peredo 21, Guiab 17, Berline 14, T. Diaz 12, E. Diaz 10, Buenabaja 6, Esdreton 5.

Saimor Pilot 77 – Villarin 20, Echavez 16, Dela Cruz 12, Raho 10, Singca 10, Tolentino 8.

Scoring by quarters: 28-20, 58-34, 75-57, 111-77.

SATO

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second straight year. He won the 2019 edition of the run in a time of 41:58.8.

Coming in second to Sato in the men's division was Whitney Altizer, who submitted a time of 42:03, while rounding out the top 3 was Ken T. Song with his 43:04.

In the women's division, Maki Narita was the first to cross the finish line with a 45:20, followed by Sarka Glanchova and Anika Snyder with runs of 50:15 and 50:23, respectively.

All top 3 winners in the men's and women's division of the 10K run went home with medals and compression socks donated by Kiyokazu Fitness Club.

Saipan Community School teacher Sarah Vander Wal topped the run-swim-run component of the 5th Aquathlon & 10KM Run. The swim por-

tion of the race was held in the waters off Kilili Beach, while the run was also held along the Saipan Beach Pathway with the turnaround at Monika's Gallery.

A total of 35 runners took part in the run portion of the 5th Aquathlon & 10KM Run, which was organized by the Triathlon Association of the CNMI and sponsored by the Marianas Visitors Authority and Kanoa Resort.

TRAC secretary general Ricky Castro thanked everyone who took part in the event and also the volunteers who helped the organization hold the 5th Aquathlon & 10KM Run.

TRAC's 5th Aquathlon & 10KM Run was the second leg of their series leading up to the 2020 Tagaman Triathlon. The first was their Duathlon event held last Dec. 21 in Paupau Beach. The last of the series will be the Sprint Triathlon set for Feb. 29 that would involve a 750m swim, 20-km bike, and 5-km run.

TOP

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win against Juncheol Hwang. He got a bye in the first round. Hwang advanced to the second round after beating Daniel Kang, 6-1, 6-4.

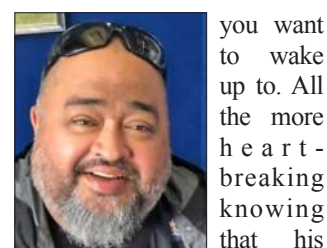
Waiting for Kim in the third round is David Kwon, who also had to go through the eye of the needle in his 7-5, 7-5 victory against Jun Wang. Kwon earlier defeated Sam Culp, 6-0, 6-1, while Wang was a 6-2, 6-1 victor against Andrew Chung.

June Yu, Nason Wessel, and Wataru and Yutaka Kadokura are all safely in the third round of the boys U12.

In the U10 mini tennis tournament, Jung Bin Park won

the whole shebang after beating Ian Chae, 4-1. Results of the girls U12, girls U14, doubles U18, and doubles U12 will be reported in tomorrow's issue of the *Saipan Tribune*. The SIS STUCO Tennis Tournament will continue next weekend, good weather permitting.

The Saipan International School student council is organizing the SIS STUCO Tennis Tournament. It is being held to fundraise for the school's many activities, including prom. SIS student and CNMI junior national player Malika Miyawaki is coordinating the entire tournament with the help of CNMI national tennis coach and sports hall of famer Jeff Race.



Blanco

you want to wake up to. All the more heart-breaking knowing that his daughter also

passed away in the crash."
—**John Blanco**
Commonwealth Football League Association chairman



Cosino

"I was just shocked and surprised when I heard of Kobe's passing this morning."
—**Ed Cosino**
Former semi-professional basketball player in the Philippines.



Diaz

"Tragic to hear this morning. He's the guy that a lot in our generation look up to and affect a lot of people's lives and how they played because of how he plays basketball. I always tell our boys that life can be gone in a blink of an eye. You don't know your day. If the Lord calls you home, then it's time for you to go. It's really sad. Kobe, he's a legend and he will forever stay a legend in our hearts. The love for basketball brings us all together. It doesn't matter if you live in the United States or a tiny island like Saipan. I taught many of my players his moves. It's just really sad and heart-breaking to hear this."

—**Joe Diaz**
Saipan Rollers head coach

lied it until I watched it on CNN today.

—**Amor Zapata**
IT&E masters player



Albert

"It's sad to see the passing of one of the best ever to play the game of basketball. He inspired me and for sure millions to work hard, stay determined, focus, and strive for your goals. The Mamba Mentality he brought to the game was not just for basketball but for life in general! To be the greatest you have to think and work to be one! Kobe Bryant will forever be an icon and true legend."

—**Clint Albert**
Eats Easy playing coach



Babauta

"One of the greatest. The basketball world lost one of its greatest. I'm still in shock. Condolences to the Bryant family. Just wow. And only 41."

—**Mike Babauta**
Saipan World Resort Sales & Marketing manager



Pelisamen

—**Freddie Pelisamen**
Former C N M I basketball player

"Tragic. I am pretty shocked. Not the kind of news



Kobe's death
leaves NBA
players, others
in shock

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

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Top seeds advance in SIS tennis



MARK RABAGO

Sean Lee in action against Isaac Heo in the SIS STUCO Tennis Tournament last Sunday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The top seeds advanced as expected as the SIS STUCO Tennis Tournament got going last Sunday at the American Memorial Park and Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan tennis courts.

After rain washed out all the matches on the first day of the supposed to be two-day tournament last Saturday, top seeds Carol Lee and Robbie Schorr set up a third round

match after outdueling their lower seeded opponents last Sunday in the boys U18.

After getting a bye in the first round, Lee won her first match against Ken Song 6-3, 6-3.

Song earlier advanced against the No. 1 seed Lee after upending Sam Ryu, 6-0, 6-3.

Schorr, for his part, played in the first round and made short work of Isaac Heo, 6-1, 6-0, before setting up his third round match against Lee with a 6-1, 6-3 victory over Jinmin Woo. Woo earlier defeated Carol's younger brother, Sean, 6-3-6-1, in their opening round pairing.

In the boys U16, top seed Andy Kim is in the third round after a tough 7-5, 7-5

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Sato repeats as 10K winner; Narita tops women

By MARK RABAGO
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Kosuke Sato repeated as the overall winner of the run portion of the 5th Aquathlon & 10KM Run held early Sunday morning at the Gov. Froilan Tenorio Saipan Beach Pathway.

The 48-year-old general manager of Kingfisher Golf Links sped through the run course from the Kilili Pavilion in Oleai to the Bank of Guam intersection in Garapan and back in a time of 41:41.

"It was a nice and cool run," said the Tokyo, Japan native after topping the event for the

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MARK RABAGO

Kosuke Sato, second from right, poses with third placer Ken T. Song after winning the 10-kilometer portion of the 5th Aquathlon & 10KM Run held early Sunday morning at the Gov. Froilan Tenorio Saipan Beach Pathway. Flanking Sato and Song are Triathlon Association of the CNMI officials Manny Sitchon and Ronald Villafria.

Saipan also mourns Lakers great Kobe Bryant's passing

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR



The basketball world woke up yesterday with the tragic news of Lakers legend Kobe Bryant's untimely passing after the helicopter he was on-board crashed in a hillside in Calabasas, California. In the chopper with Bryant was his 13-year-old daughter, Gianna, and seven others. All died in the helicopter crash.

More than 9,000 kilometers away on Saipan, hoop fans took to social media to express their feelings of loss and grieve in their own way the passing of the 41-year-

old five-time NBA champion and two-time NBA Finals MVP. There were callbacks to his 81-point scoring binge against the Toronto Raptors, his love-hate relationship with Shaquille O'Neal, his championship-or-bust mantra after Shaq was shipped to Miami, there were even some who shared his Oscar-winning "Dear Basketball" animated short film, and his 60-point final game before retirement at the Staples Center.

Almost everyone also alluded to Bryant's dogged work ethic and discipline to rise above challenges, a philosophy that soon became known as Mamba Mentality. But what's really heart-

breaking is Bryant died a short three years after retirement, at a time when he was just starting to enjoy family life with his lovely wife Vanessa and three daughters Bianka, Gianna, Natalia, and Capri. He even coached Gianna, affectionately called Gigi, in her high school basketball team and were flying to her game when tragedy struck. Gianna herself was a prodigy in basketball and was thought to be the next coming of the Black Mamba in the WNBA before her life too was cut short.

Los Angeles Clipper coach Doc Rivers eloquently sums up what everyone felt following Bryant's tragic de-

mise that "We're all Lakers today." Below are some thoughts of Bryant's local fans after his passing:



Lee

"Man, I'm just still in shock. He's not only my idol in basketball but I also look up to him for his perspective in life. In many ways he was my mentor. His motto was always no excuse in life and you work hard for what you want. I'm just so sad that he passed away at such a young age and

to top it off, his daughter also passed away. As a father that added in the pain."

—James Lee
Hoopaholics founder



Del Rosario

His dedication, discipline, and relentless effort to become a better man will always remain with me. A true life icon. We will never hear his Hall of Fame speech. The legacy Kobe Bryant leaves behind will always be remembered and celebrated.

—Norman Del Rosario
MP United technical director



Angeles

never be forgotten."
—Raymond Angeles
Former CNMI national bowler

"I'm really sad now! Kobe

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